

2024 -- H 7348

LC003621

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING JANUARY 30, 2024, TO BE "RHODE ISLAND FOOD INSECURITY AWARENESS DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Tanzi, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Kislak, Speakman, J. Lombardi, Hull, Felix, and Ajello

Date Introduced: January 30, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, In 2023, a record number of Rhode Islanders needed food assistance due to  
2 high food prices, the steep rise in housing costs, and the end of COVID-19 relief programs; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the 2023 Status Report on Hunger in Rhode Island, 29 percent  
4 of Rhode Island households are unable to meet their basic food needs; and

5 WHEREAS, Communities of color and families with children are at the greatest risk of  
6 hunger; and

7 WHEREAS, Food pantries in Rhode Island assisted an average of 77,500 people a month  
8 in 2023; and

9 WHEREAS, A recent Rhode Island food cost study showed that food prices went up by  
10 11 percent from July 2022 to July 2023, adding to already inflated prices from the previous year;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, From July of 2022 through June of 2023, the Rhode Island Community  
13 Food Bank ("Food Bank") distributed 16.2 million pounds of food through its 143-member  
14 agencies across Rhode Island, which included 3.7 million pounds of fresh produce and 2.8  
15 million pounds of culturally relevant foods; and

16 WHEREAS, During 2023, beginning on July 1, the Food Bank will spend \$8 million on  
17 food acquisition in order to keep pace with the high demand for food assistance especially among  
18 families with children and people of color; now, therefore be it

19 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island is committed to addressing the health and

1 wellbeing of its residents by continuing public awareness of increased food insecurity and  
2 seeking ways to address this increased need; now, therefore be it

3           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
4 proclaims January 30, 2024, to be "Rhode Island Food Insecurity Awareness Day" and moreover  
5 thanks the dedicated members and contributors to the State's 143 food bank agencies for their  
6 efforts to feed and provide for the hungry, the vulnerable, and those in need; and be it further

7           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
8 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Andrew Schiff, Executive Director of the  
9 Rhode Island Community Food Bank.

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