

2024 -- H 8320

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LC006178  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$2,000,000 TO THE RI FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT  
VOCA GRANT RECIPIENT ORGANIZATIONS IN RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Craven, and Caldwell

Date Introduced: May 30, 2024

Referred To: House Finance

1           WHEREAS, Over thirty Rhode Island victims of crime services organizations and state  
2 agencies rely upon federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) appropriations annually to continue to  
3 serve crime victims and survivors in the State. These victim assistance programs support some of  
4 the most vulnerable populations in Rhode Island, including minor victims of child abuse, sexual  
5 assault survivors, elder abuse victims, domestic violence victims, and survivors of human  
6 trafficking, community violence, and gun violence; and

7           WHEREAS, The VOCA funds distributed to Rhode Island have been significantly cut for  
8 FY 2024 by nearly 40 percent, which will result in severe scaling back of these vital and  
9 lifesaving survivor services, putting crime victim safety and recovery in jeopardy. This critical  
10 source of funding allows local organizations to provide support services to some of our most at-  
11 risk community members. In total, more than 42,000 individuals received VOCA-funded services  
12 in Rhode Island during the 2023 fiscal year; and

13           WHEREAS, These victim assistance programs provide services to crime survivors in  
14 crisis, education programs, and advocacy and prevention efforts to better support victims and  
15 communities affected by many different forms of violence; and

16           WHEREAS, These Rhode Island victim services organizations envision a society where  
17 violence is not tolerated because communities are enlightened and responsive to the needs of  
18 victims and their children, focusing on policy, prevention, survivor activism, communications,  
19 and training to achieve this critical goal; and

1           WHEREAS, These victim assistance agencies provide a wide array of services for  
2 victims of crime, including a 24/7 statewide Victims of Crime Helpline and individual agency  
3 hotlines, referrals for crime victim’s financial compensation, restraining order advocacy,  
4 emergency shelter and housing, and support for groups, counseling services, child advocacy  
5 services, assistance with pending court processes, assistance with civil legal services, and more;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, This funding for VOCA will fill the significant gap in federal VOCA  
8 funding appropriated, thereby allowing these essential Rhode Island victim services organizations  
9 to fulfill their missions to aid and support victims of violent crime in the State; now, therefore be  
10 it

11           RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not  
12 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2024-2025, the sum of \$2 million (\$2,000,000) to the  
13 Rhode Island Foundation to distribute as grants to the Rhode Island nonprofit organization  
14 recipients of federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding, utilizing the current grant  
15 distribution formula for the VOCA-funded organizations; and the state controller is hereby  
16 authorized and directed to draw his orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of said sum,  
17 or so much thereof as may be from time to time required, upon receipt of properly authorized  
18 vouchers.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$2,000,000 TO THE RI FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT  
VOCA GRANT RECIPIENT ORGANIZATIONS IN RHODE ISLAND

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- 1           This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$2,000,000 to the Rhode
- 2   Island Foundation to distribute as grants to the Rhode Island nonprofit organization recipients of
- 3   federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding.

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