

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

JOYOUSLY CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN HELLENIC  
INSTITUTE (AHI)

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Gallo, Burke, McKenney, Kallman, and Euer

Date Introduced: February 05, 2024

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1           WHEREAS, The year 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the American Hellenic  
2 Institute, formed for the purpose of actively engaging and cultivating ties with the Greek-  
3 American community; and

4           WHEREAS, The AHI is a widely respected and independent nonprofit think-tank center  
5 based in Washington D.C., with a nationwide membership across the United States. The Institute  
6 analyzes and advocates for policies which are in the best interest of the United States in its  
7 relations with Greece and Cyprus; and

8           WHEREAS, The AHI was founded in 1974 by Eugene Rossides, the former Assistant  
9 Secretary of the Treasury under President Nixon and a widely respected member of the Greek-  
10 American community; and

11           WHEREAS, When Turkey unlawfully invaded the Republic of Cyprus in 1974, forcibly  
12 displacing rightful owners from their property using United States supplied arms, the AHI  
13 provided Congress the legal basis for the "Rule of Law Arms Embargo," which prohibited the  
14 sale of United States supplied arms to Turkey as a sanction under the law, due to this unlawful  
15 invasion and occupation; and

16           WHEREAS, The AHI has initiated numerous programs and initiatives that have  
17 strengthened Greece-United States relations and in support of democratic principles and freedoms  
18 of vital importance to both nations; and

19           WHEREAS, The AHI was the first organization to sponsor a Congressional delegation

1 visit to Greece in 1993, and to raise the issue of religious freedom and protection for the  
2 Ecumenical Patriarchate under the Treaty of Lausanne of 1923 and the reopening of the Greek  
3 Orthodox seminary in Halki; and

4 WHEREAS, Other AHI initiatives include supporting studies related to modern Hellenic  
5 history and culture by scholars across the United States, initiating the first-ever conference on the  
6 Future of Hellenism in America, hosting 14 symposiums on doing business in Greece, and  
7 sponsoring the inaugural College Student Foreign Policy Study Trip to Greece and Cyprus; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2011, longtime AHI Director, Nick Larigakis, became the President of  
9 the AHI, succeeding Eugene Rossides. Under his leadership and direction, the AHI, along with  
10 leading Greek and Jewish American organizations, sponsored biennial trips to Greece, Cyprus  
11 and Israel, and helped forge a strategic alliance between the three countries that is now known as  
12 the Eastern Mediterranean Partnership. The United States, with the support of Congressional  
13 legislation, has endorsed and is now a partner in this trilateral alliance, which is known as the  
14 3+1; and

15 WHEREAS, The AHI has sponsored important white paper reports on the Eastern  
16 Mediterranean's importance to the United States and (NATO) militarily, diplomatically and  
17 economically. The AHI also successfully worked with Congress in 2017 and 2018 to increase  
18 Greece's International Military Education and Training. In 2018, then United States Ambassador  
19 to Greece, Geoffrey Pyatt, publicly stated that "AHI's advocacy strengthens the U.S. government  
20 and the profound partnership and friendship between our countries (United States and Greece)";  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, The AHI has also received praise for its outstanding work and advocacy in  
23 support of the rule of law, freedom and human rights, from Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney the  
24 former co-chair of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, Congressman Gus Bilirakis, the current  
25 co-Chair of the Caucus, and from General Konstantinos Floros, Chief of the Hellenic National  
26 Defence General Staff. In 2019, the Greek Ministry of Defense awarded AHI President Nick  
27 Larigakis the Medal of Honor and Valour for strengthening US-Greek Defense Cooperation; and

28 WHEREAS, The AHI looks forward to continuing its work in the decades to come,  
29 further building ties within the Greek-American community and between the United States and its  
30 Eastern Mediterranean allies; now, therefore be it

31 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby joyously celebrates the  
32 50th Anniversary of the American Hellenic Institute; and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
34 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Nick Larigakis, President & CEO of the

1 American Hellenic Institute.

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