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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE BROWN UNIVERSITY SHOOTING AND  
COMMENDING FIRST RESPONDERS

Introduced By: Senators Lawson, Ciccone, Gallo, Tikoian, Bissaillon, LaMountain,  
Britto, Mack, Lauria, and McKenney  
Date Introduced: January 06, 2026

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, On Saturday afternoon, December 13, 2025, at approximately 4:00 p.m., an  
2 act of unimaginable violence unfolded at Brown University when a gunman entered the Barus &  
3 Holley Building, home to the University’s School of Engineering and Department of Physics,  
4 shooting eleven people and taking the lives of two students, Ella Cook and Mukhammad Aziz  
5 Umurzokov; and

6 WHEREAS, Ella Cook, an accomplished pianist studying French, mathematics, and  
7 economics, and Mukhammad Aziz Umurzokov, a freshman who aspired to become a  
8 neurosurgeon, were taken far too soon in a senseless act that has left their families, friends, and  
9 the Brown University community in profound grief; and

10 WHEREAS, In the moments immediately following the first shots, wounded students lay  
11 injured on Manning Walk as chaos spread across the campus, fear replaced routine, and members  
12 of the Brown University community fled for safety, uncertain of where danger lay; and

13 WHEREAS, Providence firefighters and emergency medical personnel ran toward the  
14 wounded without hesitation, rendering aid under conditions of extreme uncertainty, even as  
15 gunfire continued nearby and the location of the shooter remained unknown; and

16 WHEREAS, These firefighters worked swiftly and courageously to stop bleeding,  
17 stabilize victims, and remove the injured from harm’s way, exemplifying extraordinary  
18 composure, professionalism, and devotion to duty; and

19 WHEREAS, Members of the Providence Fire Department responded under the leadership

1 of Fire Chief Derek M. Silva, including Fire Captain Robert Cataldo, Lieutenant John Faria, and  
2 Firefighters Jay Vita and Zack Hannon, along with many others who placed themselves in harm's  
3 way to save lives; and

4 WHEREAS, Local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies responded immediately  
5 and worked tirelessly in the hours and days that followed to identify the perpetrator and ensure  
6 public safety, under the leadership of Providence Police Chief Colonel Oscar Perez, Rhode Island  
7 State Police Superintendent Colonel Darnell S. Weaver, and their federal partners, including the  
8 Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Exceptional medical care was provided by doctors, nurses, and medical  
11 professionals, particularly at Rhode Island Hospital, where emergency protocols were swiftly  
12 implemented and the injured were treated with extraordinary skill, compassion, and resolve,  
13 resulting in the survival of those wounded; and

14 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island was served with steadiness and integrity by its  
15 elected leadership, including Providence Mayor Brett P. Smiley and Attorney General Peter  
16 Neronha, who worked continuously to support emergency responders, keep the public informed,  
17 and provide reassurance during a time of fear and uncertainty; and

18 WHEREAS, The people of Rhode Island and around the world have the right to be secure  
19 in their homes, schools, and communities, and this Senate condemns this and all senseless acts of  
20 violence that shatter lives and undermine that fundamental security; and

21 WHEREAS, To the parents and families who face the unimaginable loss of a child, the  
22 people of Rhode Island mourn with you and stand beside you in grief and remembrance; now,  
23 therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby honors the memory  
25 and lives of Ella Cook and Mukhammad Aziz Umurzokov, extends its deepest condolences to  
26 their families and to all those injured and traumatized by the Brown University shooting, and  
27 affirms its solidarity with the Brown University community; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island commends and honors the  
29 courage, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication of the firefighters, emergency medical personnel,  
30 law enforcement officers, medical professionals, and public servants who responded with  
31 humanity, professionalism, and resilience under extraordinary and dangerous circumstances; and  
32 be it further

33 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
34 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the families of Ella Cook and Mukhammad

- 1 Aziz Umurzokov; the Honorable Brett P. Smiley, Mayor of the City of Providence; Attorney
- 2 General Peter Neronha; Colonel Oscar Perez, Chief of the Providence Police Department; Chief
- 3 Derek M. Silva of the Providence Fire Department; and Colonel Darnell S. Weaver,
- 4 Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police.

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