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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

JOINT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING "THE WHOLE CHILD INITIATIVE"

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Lombardi, Lynch, and DaPonte

Date Introduced: February 13, 2013

Referred To: Senate Education

1 WHEREAS, The children of the State of Rhode Island are our future and are the ones
2 who will provide the leadership, creativity, and productivity necessary to strengthen and sustain
3 the quality of life within our communities; and

4 WHEREAS, This state must ensure that our children have the support of their
5 communities and are provided with the educational opportunities necessary to succeed in our
6 universities, workplaces, and neighborhoods; and

7 WHEREAS, Rhode Island has made a commitment to ensure that every child enters
8 school healthy and ready to learn; and

9 WHEREAS, Every child in our state has the right to learn in a safe and nurturing
10 environment, the right to be actively engaged in learning in the school community, and the right
11 to access support from adults who serve as mentors and advisors; and

12 WHEREAS, In addition, each child has the right to learn 21st century skills, including art,
13 music, technology, and foreign languages, in an intellectually challenging environment; and

14 WHEREAS, The Whole Child approach is based on research that indicates that to
15 educate Rhode Island's children effectively means we must pay attention to factors within and
16 beyond our school buildings, curriculum, and resources, as well as integrate efforts among
17 schools, families, and communities on behalf of our children; and

18 WHEREAS, Gaps in educational achievement continue to exist and are tied to disparities
19 in health issues such as teen pregnancy, substance abuse, tobacco use, and asthma, along with
20 environmental concerns such as lead poisoning and healthy housing; now, therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence
2 Plantations hereby agrees to take a Whole Child approach to our work each day. We join our
3 efforts with those of stakeholders who are working tirelessly every day on behalf of children to
4 support The Whole Child Initiative to assure that all policies, programs, and activities ensure that
5 our children are healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
7 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to members of the Rhode Island Congressional
8 Delegation.

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