

**2014 -- H 8352**

=====  
LC005896  
=====

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014**

---

**H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N**

**EXPRESSING SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF KELLY MARIE  
BUTTERWORTH (JULY 5, 1961 - MAY 22, 2014)**

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton, Handy, and Jacquard

Date Introduced: June 18, 2014

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, It is with utmost sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Kelly  
2 Marie Butterworth on May 22nd of 2014; and

3           WHEREAS, Born in Providence, Kelly Marie Butterworth was a daughter of Bruce E.  
4 and Patricia A. (Luchka) Butterworth. She was the sister of Joyce E. Sellon of North Kingstown,  
5 and Cheryl B. Padilla of Tiverton, and was a devoted aunt; and

6           WHEREAS, Kelly Butterworth was a graduating member of the Class of 1980 at the  
7 Rhode Island School for the Deaf (RISDeaf). She was the first woman from Rhode Island to  
8 receive a Bachelor of Arts degree from Gallaudet University in 1987; and

9           WHEREAS, Kelly loved to compete in a number of varsity athletic sports both at the  
10 RISDeaf and Gallaudet University. She was the first deaf women to play AAU field hockey. She  
11 represented the United States in the 1991 (Banff, Canada) and 1995 (Ylläs, Finland) Winter  
12 Deaflympics for four events combined (Downhill, Giant Slalom, Slalom, and Super-G); and

13           WHEREAS, Kelly Butterworth was employed at the Rhode Island School for the Deaf  
14 for more than fourteen years as a media specialist, and for more than 20 years in different  
15 positions at RISDeaf such as Athletic Director, Coach, Assistant Coach, Teacher Tutor, American  
16 Sign Language Specialist, and Event Coordinator; and

17           WHEREAS, Kelly shared her passion for sports and media (video/photography). She  
18 contributed to the academic and athletic success of the students of RISDeaf. In April of 2012, she  
19 volunteered to organize the first Annual Rooster 5K Run Fundraiser which helped raise money

1 for kids to attend summer camp programs; and

2 WHEREAS, Kelly had also been instrumental in coordinating several large scale athletic  
3 events in Rhode Island such as the Eastern Schools for the Deaf Athletic Association (ESDAA)  
4 Track and Field Meet in 2011, the ESDAA Division II Boys Basketball Tournament in 2012,  
5 Golf Fundraiser Tournament for the RISDeaf Athletic Department in 2013, and the ESDAA  
6 Division II Girls Basketball Tournament in 2013. She also organized after school activities in  
7 which students interacted with RISDeaf faculty and staff as well as students from the other  
8 schools in the New England region; and

9 WHEREAS, Kelly Butterworth was the chairperson of the Alumni Association of Rhode  
10 Island School for the Deaf 50th Anniversary Reunion that will be held on the weekend of  
11 September 19, 2014; and

12 WHEREAS, Kelly Butterworth received the RI Hamilton Relay 2012 Deaf Community  
13 Leader Award for the State of Rhode Island. In her personal leisure time, she enjoyed skiing,  
14 sailing, and traveling; and

15 WHEREAS, Kelly was well known among the deaf community, not just in Rhode Island,  
16 but also throughout the United States, for her in-depth dedication, her "can do" attitude, and the  
17 way she inspired others by radiating her positive thinking to all whose lives she touched. She  
18 made numerous videos documenting her battle against cancer, sprinkling them with her unique  
19 sense of humor which are being watched by the deaf community across the nation; and

20 WHEREAS, Kelly Butterworth was a true fighter who battled cancer for more than  
21 twelve years with a sense of humor and an indomitable spirit, and her legacy deserves to be  
22 honored and recognized; now, therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
24 Providence Plantations hereby expresses deepest sympathy on the passing of Kelly Marie  
25 Butterworth. She will forever be remembered for the citizenship, character, and the leadership she  
26 demonstrated throughout her lifetime; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
28 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Butterworth Family.

=====  
LC005896  
=====