

**2015 -- H 6170**

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015**

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**H O U S E   R E S O L U T I O N**

**CONGRATULATING DEBRA MESSING FOR RECEIVING THE 2015 PELL AWARD FOR  
DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT IN THE ARTS**

Introduced By: Representative Antonio Giarrusso

Date Introduced: May 05, 2015

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, The Pell Awards, now in their 19th year, recognize and celebrate artistic  
2 excellence in Rhode Island, support the Trinity Repertory Company, and honor Senator Claiborne  
3 Pell's legacy of vigorous support of the arts, including his sponsorship of legislation that created  
4 the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1965; and

5           WHEREAS, Esteemed Actress Debra Messing will be awarded the Pell Award for  
6 Distinguished Achievement in the Arts on June 15, 2015, at the 19th annual Pell Awards Gala;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, Ms. Messing was born in Brooklyn, New York, the daughter of Sandra and  
9 Brian Messing. As a young child, she and her family moved to East Greenwich, Rhode Island.  
10 She attended East Greenwich High School where she thrived as both a student and a performer on  
11 stage starring in various plays including the musicals *Annie* and *Grease*. After graduating from  
12 East Greenwich High School, she attended Brandeis University, where she graduated Summa  
13 Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theater Arts. She was later accepted into the very  
14 prestigious Graduate Acting Program at New York University, and earned a Master of Fine Arts  
15 degree; and

16           WHEREAS, Ms. Messing first gained notice as an actress when she received rave  
17 reviews for her performances in the pre-Broadway workshop production of *Angels in America:*  
18 *Perestroika*. After working in a variety of television shows and film productions in a supporting  
19 role, Debra landed a starring role in the landmark and groundbreaking television series, *Will &*

1 *Grace*. For her work on this highly successful series, Debra won a 2003 Emmy Award, earned  
2 seven Golden Globe nominations, seven Screen Actors Guild nominations, five additional Emmy  
3 nominations, two American Comedy Award nominations, and two People's Choice Award  
4 nominations. She was also named TV Guide's Actress of the Year in a Comedy Series in 2001;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Since her break-out success on *Will & Grace*, Ms. Messing has gone on to  
7 star in movies, work on Broadway, and currently stars in the television show the *Mysteries of*  
8 *Laura*. She also supports many charitable endeavors and is a passionate advocate of various  
9 global health initiatives; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
11 Providence Plantations hereby congratulates Debra Messing for receiving the 2015 Pell Award  
12 for Distinguished Achievement in the Arts; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
14 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Debra Messing.

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