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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING TRACY L. LAFRENIERE, NORTH SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL TEACHER, ON BEING NAMED THE 2016 RHODE ISLAND TEACHER OF THE
YEAR

Introduced By: Senators E O'Neill, Cote, and P Fogarty

Date Introduced: June 11, 2015

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Tracy L. Lafreniere is a Reading Specialist and Literacy Coach at North
2 Smithfield Elementary School, where she has taught for the past seventeen years. She earned a
3 Bachelor's degree from Rhode Island College and a Master's degree from Lesley University in
4 Cambridge, Massachusetts; and

5 WHEREAS, Ms. Lafreniere is a dedicated, creative and innovative teacher who is always
6 looking for ways to encourage the youngsters in her care to not only learn how to read and
7 overcome their reading difficulties, but to also develop a life-long passion for reading and
8 learning. She aspires daily to make her classroom a fun and exciting learning environment and
9 believes that her "greatest accomplishment would be teaching a child to read"; and

10 WHEREAS, Ms. Lafreniere received the prestigious Rhode Island Teacher of the Year
11 Award at a surprise gathering disguised as a ceremony to honor the school for its fundraising. She
12 received her award from Education Commissioner Deborah Gist in the school auditorium to
13 thunderous applause from faculty members, school children and invited guests. Commissioner
14 Gist described Ms. Lafreniere as being "a teacher who by all accounts is completely devoted to
15 her students," and as someone who "brings joy and a spirit of fun to the classroom"; and

16 WHEREAS, Ms. Lafreniere, in addition to receiving the Rhode Island Teacher of the
17 Year Award, received a bouquet of flowers, and a new Smart Car emblazoned with the words
18 "2016 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year." She also immediately becomes a candidate for the
19 2016 National Teacher of the Year Award; and

1 WHEREAS, In addition to her official teaching duties, Ms. Lafreniere serves on the
2 Executive Board of the Rhode Island Reading Project, serves as a Common Core Ambassador for
3 the Rhode Island Department of Education, is the co-chair of the School Improvement Team at
4 North Smithfield Elementary School, and is an Adjunct Professor in the Graduate Literacy Clinic
5 at Providence College; and

6 WHEREAS, Thanks to Tracy Lafreniere, and teachers like her, every day a young
7 student in Rhode Island has their life impacted in a positive way. Her gentle encouragement,
8 compassion and understanding have made a big difference in the lives of the young children in
9 her care. Perhaps Tracy described her purpose in life best when she said that she "loves walking
10 through the doors of the school each and every day because it feels like home, you feel like my
11 family"; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
13 hereby congratulates Tracy L. Lafreniere on receiving the 2016 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year
14 Award. We thank her for being a dedicated and passionate teaching professional who has made
15 an enormously positive impact on the lives of many young school children, and we wish her
16 continued success as a candidate for the National Teacher of the Year Award; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Tracy Lafreniere.

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