

2016 -- S 2666

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING MARCH 8, 2016, AS "INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY" IN THE STATE  
OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Nesselbush, Paiva Weed, Goodwin, Gallo, and Walaska

Date Introduced: March 08, 2016

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, International Women's Day has been observed since the early 1900's, at a  
2 time when women's oppression and inequality was causing women to become more vocal, active,  
3 and demanding of change; and

4           WHEREAS, The first National Women's Day was observed in the United States on  
5 February 28, 1909, in honor of the 1908 garment workers' strike in New York City, where women  
6 protested and demanded shorter hours, better pay, and voting rights; and

7           WHEREAS, The first countries to honor International Women's Day in 1911 were  
8 Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland, where together more than one million women and  
9 men attended International Women's Day rallies campaigning for women's rights to work, vote,  
10 hold public office, and to end discrimination in general; and

11           WHEREAS, Over the last century, countries throughout the world have honored women  
12 on different days throughout the year; and

13           WHEREAS, In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed, once and for all,  
14 throughout the world, March 8th as International Women's Day, a day that is celebrated in the  
15 Unites States and worldwide; and

16           WHEREAS, International Women's Day has more recently assumed a new, global  
17 dimension for women in developed and developing countries alike; and

18           WHEREAS, In 2016, the United Nations has declared the theme for this year's  
19 International Women's Day celebration to be a "Pledge for Parity"; and

1           WHEREAS, Gender parity appears ever more elusive in that the World Economic Forum  
2 predicted in 2014 that it would take until 2095 to achieve global gender parity. One year later, in  
3 2015, due to a slowdown in the pace of progress that same group indicated that the gender gap  
4 wouldn't close entirely until 2133; and

5           WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Labor, among full-time  
6 workers, women still earn less than men, earning 78.6 percent of what men earn. Additionally, a  
7 wage gap persists between the genders when further analyzing by educational attainment, age  
8 groups, race and ethnicity; and

9           WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Commission on Human Rights accepted 394 new cases in  
10 FY 2015, of which 108 cases, the second largest group of claims, contained allegations of sex  
11 discrimination, including pregnancy and sexual harassment claims. Ninety-four of those claims  
12 involved employment issues; and

13           WHEREAS, Numerous charges of sex discrimination and pregnancy discrimination are  
14 filed every year with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the agency responsible for  
15 enforcing anti-discrimination laws in the United States; now, therefore be it

16           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
17 hereby encourages all citizens to celebrate and pay tribute to the contributions of women  
18 nationally and in the State of Rhode Island, while making and participating in the Pledge for  
19 Parity; and be it further

20           RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby recognizes March 8, 2016, as "International  
21 Women's Day" and acknowledges this year's theme as a "Pledge for Parity"; and be it further

22           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
23 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the first woman Governor of the State of Rhode  
24 Island, Governor Gina Raimondo.

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