

2017 -- S 0535

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING MARCH 8, 2017, AS "INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY" IN THE STATE
OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Nesselbush, Paiva Weed, Calkin, Coyne, and Morgan

Date Introduced: March 08, 2017

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 were causing women to become more vocal,
3 active, 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, In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed, once and for all,
12 throughout the world, March 8th as International Women's Day, a day that is celebrated in the
13 Unites States and worldwide; and

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

16 WHEREAS, Gender parity remains elusive in that the World Economic Forum predicted
17 in 2014 that it would take until 2095 to achieve global gender parity. One year later, in 2015, due
18 to a slowdown in the pace of progress that same group indicated that the gender gap wouldn't
19 close entirely until 2133; and

1 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Labor, among full-time
2 workers, women still earn less than men, earning 83 percent of what men earn; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2017, the United Nations has declared the theme for this year's
4 International Women's Day celebration: "Be Bold For Change"; and this year Rhode Island has
5 chosen to honor the first female Colonel of the Rhode Island State Police and our state's elite
6 group of female fire fighters; and

7 WHEREAS, Law enforcement and firefighting continue to be non-traditional careers for
8 women. Nationally, only 7 percent of the nation's fire fighters are women, and in Rhode Island, of
9 the 20 full-time fire departments, only 1.75 percent of their collective staff is female. In fact, there
10 here are still several Rhode Island municipalities that do not have a single female fire fighter;
11 now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
13 hereby recognizes the elite, few women who have blazed trails and burned down barriers in these
14 non-traditional careers, and encourages all citizens to celebrate and pay tribute to the
15 contributions of these women nationally and in the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby recognizes March 8, 2017, as "International
17 Women's Day"; and be it further

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

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