

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

HONORING ALISHA A. (PINA) THOUNSAVATH ON THE OCCASION OF HER DEPARTURE FROM THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL STAFF TO ACCEPT A POSITION AS THE CHIEF PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER FOR THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced By: Senators DaPonte, Crowley, Sosnowski, Lombardi, and Metts

Date Introduced: March 30, 2017

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Alisha Pina grew up in the City of East Providence. As a young woman,  
2 aspiring poet, and consummate storyteller, she was thrilled to join the staff as an intern and  
3 shortly thereafter, as a staff reporter with the Providence Journal. She earned her Bachelor's  
4 degree in Journalism from Boston University while working at the paper; and

5 WHEREAS, Covering various state agencies, as well as the General Assembly and the  
6 Office of the Governor, as a member of the paper's State House Bureau team, Alisha brought "the  
7 essence" of life in Rhode Island into the homes of Journal readers; and

8 WHEREAS, During her tenure with the paper, Alisha also developed and implemented  
9 myriad special projects including a 4-day multi-media package commemorating the 1963 March  
10 on Washington and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech, a year-long in-depth look  
11 at Rhode Island's racial gaps, and a year-long weight loss column, to name but a few of her  
12 inspiring pieces; and

13 WHEREAS, In addition to her journalism career, Alisha has devoted countless hours to  
14 the community, counseling nonprofits and student-led organizations with their various media  
15 needs, appearing as a guest speaker motivating and mentoring young people at Providence  
16 College, the University of Rhode Island and numerous middle and high schools, and serving on a  
17 panoply of boards and committees including Vice President of the Providence Newspaper Guild  
18 and a member of the National Association of Black Journalists; and

1           WHEREAS, Respected by her colleagues and contemporaries, Alisha has been honored  
2 with the National Association of Black Journalists Salute to Excellence Award, the Community  
3 Service Award from Oasis International, the George S. Lima Award from NAACP Providence,  
4 the Media Achievement Award of Excellence from the American & Cape Verdean Cultural  
5 Exchange Commission of RI, the Metcalf Diversity in the Media Award from Rhode Island for  
6 Community & Justice for Race in Rhode Island, and the Metcalf Diversity in the Media Award  
7 from Rhode Island for Community & Justice for MLK: 50 Years Later; and

8           WHEREAS, In her very rare spare-time, Alisha sings with the gospel choir Prism of  
9 Praise, and her beautiful soprano voice has also been featured for many years at the Providence  
10 Newspaper Guild's Follies show; and

11           WHEREAS, An invaluable asset to the Providence Journal's staff, Alisha has proven to  
12 be an intelligent and savvy reporter, so it is not at all surprising that the Department of Human  
13 Services "scooped" her away to help and inspire our state's youth and most vulnerable families. It  
14 is also entirely understandable that she will be missed by the many Rhode Islanders who have  
15 followed her stories and reports over the years; now, therefore be it

16           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
17 hereby congratulates Alisha Pina as she turns the page on a new chapter of her life. We moreover  
18 thank her on behalf of all Rhode Islanders for her eloquent and informative journalism and wish  
19 her the very best health and continued success in all her future endeavors; and be it further

20           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
21 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Alisha A. (Pina) Thounsavath.

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