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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THUNDERMIST HEALTH CENTER ON 50 YEARS OF PROVIDING
RHODE ISLANDERS WITH QUALITY SERVICE AND HEALTH CARE

Introduced By: Senators Satchell, Murray, Gallo, Ruggerio, Metts, and Lombardi

Date Introduced: June 05, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Thundermist Health Center is a nonprofit corporation and Federally
2 Qualified Community Health Center, that currently serves three Rhode Island communities --
3 Woonsocket, West Warwick, and South County; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1969, local physicians felt that the City of Woonsocket needed a family
5 planning center. They generously volunteered their time to provide care from an apartment in a
6 low-income housing development, and on May 16, 1974, were officially incorporated as a full-
7 fledged health center; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2001, Thundermist merged with the Health Center of South County, and
9 in 2003, established a comprehensive health center and a school based health center in West
10 Warwick. In 2005, Thundermist renovated an old warehouse in Woonsocket into a flagship health
11 center that has subsequently been nationally recognized; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2006, Thundermist transitioned to an electronic record system,
13 eClinicalWorks, and in 2011, opened the state's first health center site fully designed as a patient
14 centered medical home. In addition, it became the first Rhode Island community health center to
15 achieve patient centered medical home accreditation from NCQA in 2011, and is currently
16 NCQA accredited at the highest level in all of its eligible departments and is a FTCA Deemed
17 Facility; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2013, nearly 40 percent of Thundermist's 42,000 patients were uninsured,
19 and many faced transportation challenges, substance abuse disorders, homelessness,

1 unemployment or underemployment, and many other issues. In order to meet their needs,
2 Thundermist provided \$6.6 million in unreimbursed care in 2014; and

3 WHEREAS, Both patients and staff at Thundermist are ethnically and racially diverse. In
4 order to provide the most accessible and best quality services, Thundermist follows the National
5 Standards on Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services and buildings are fully
6 accessible to patients and staff with mobility challenges; and

7 WHEREAS, Thundermist's commitment to health and wellness services and health
8 advocacy work extends into non-clinical programs also, including participation in Health Equity
9 Zones, a community garden, and farmers markets; and

10 WHEREAS, For the past 50 years, Thundermist has grown and developed new programs
11 in order to provide comprehensive health care services to meet the needs of the people who need
12 it most in the communities it serves; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
14 hereby congratulates Thundermist Health Center on 50 years of providing Rhode Islanders with
15 quality service and health care. We moreover thank all the Center's physicians, administrators and
16 staff on their commitment and dedication; 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 Jeanne LaChance, MBA, CPA, President and
19 Chief Executive Officer of Thundermist Health Center.

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