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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020**

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF MARCIA B. REBACK**

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Gallo, and Lawson

Date Introduced: January 15, 2020

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1           WHEREAS, Marcia Reback, a distinguished educational professional and union leader,  
2 was born in 1944 in Fall River, Massachusetts, the daughter of the late Ruth Gladstone and  
3 William Reback. After her father passed away when she was nine, Marcia and her mother lived in  
4 Florida with relatives before moving to Rhode Island; and

5           WHEREAS, Ms. Reback was a graduate of Hope High School, the University of Rhode  
6 Island and the University of Connecticut. After finishing her studies, she was hired to serve as a  
7 teacher at the City of Providence's Veazie Street Elementary School; and

8           WHEREAS, Ms. Reback's interest in and passion for educational justice and equality,  
9 and improving the quality and pay for teachers, led her to focus on an administrative career, in  
10 which she eventually rose to the positions of President of the Providence Teachers Union,  
11 President of the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals, and Vice  
12 President of the American Federation of Teachers. She also served as the Vice President of the  
13 Rhode Island AFL-CIO; and

14           WHEREAS, For decades, Marcia played an instrumental role in helping to formulate  
15 Rhode Island educational policy. Ms. Reback assisted in the drafting of the first charter-school  
16 law in Rhode Island, worked tirelessly to establish an equitable state funding formula for schools,  
17 and played a vital role in helping to resolve the bitter dispute that occurred between the Central  
18 Falls teachers and school officials. In addition, her enthusiastic support of the State's Race to the  
19 Top application played a key role in Rhode Island winning a federal grant; and

20           WHEREAS, Even in retirement, Ms. Reback continued to work tirelessly on behalf of

1 social justice and equality issues. She served with distinction on the Labor Relations Board, the  
2 Rhode Island Retirees Pension Committee, and on the State Investment Commission. She was a  
3 generous supporter of and contributor to the Hope High School Dollars for Scholars fund; and

4 WHEREAS, Ms. Reback was an active and passionate supporter of the Democratic Party.  
5 She will soon be posthumously honored with the first ever Frank Montanaro, Sr. Award, an  
6 award created by the Democratic Party to honor those who have sacrificed on behalf of organized  
7 labor; and

8 WHEREAS, Ms. Reback deeply valued her relationships with her many cherished  
9 friends. She was always there for a friend in need, whether it was offering good advice, a  
10 listening ear, or being a great dinner companion. Ms. Reback also enjoyed reading in the  
11 company of her cats, Stevie Brown, Samantha, and Miss Kitty, and was an enthusiastic devotee  
12 of the music of Frank Sinatra; and

13 WHEREAS, Ms. Reback leaves behind Beverly and Frank Prosnitz, Gail Gladstone,  
14 Marty Kantrowicz, Jack Friedenn, Harvey Reback, David Reback, Charles Reback and Marlene  
15 Haslam; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
17 hereby expresses its deepest condolences to the Reback Family on the passing of Marcia B.  
18 Reback; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
20 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Beverly and Frank Prosnitz, Gail Gladstone,  
21 Marty Kantrowicz, Jack Friedenn, Harvey Reback, David Reback, Charles Reback and Marlene  
22 Haslam.

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