

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING AND THANKING ELIZABETH BURKE BRYANT FOR TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OF DEVOTED SERVICE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RHODE ISLAND KIDS COUNT

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Edwards, Chippendale, Messier, Kazarian, Ackerman, and McNamara

Date Introduced: January 31, 2023

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT is an independent nonprofit organization
2 “focused on improving the health, education, safety, economic well-being, and development of
3 children in Rhode Island.” Since the organization’s inception, Elizabeth Burke Bryant has been
4 an unrelenting policy advocate and an inexorable driving force, serving as the organization’s
5 Executive Director for the past twenty-eight years; and

6 WHEREAS, Ms. Burke Bryant earned her Bachelor’s degree in political science from the
7 University of Vermont and a Juris Doctor from the George Washington University Law School.
8 Previous to her joining KIDS COUNT, she held numerous positions, all of which brought a
9 wealth of knowledge to her leadership and ultimate success at KIDS COUNT including serving
10 as policy director for the City of Providence, a Housing Court prosecutor, and a consultant for
11 Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation, The Rhode Island Foundation, the
12 Women's Prison Mentoring Project, and as Co-Chair of Rhode Island Early Learning Council,
13 and a Board member of Partnership for America's Children. She also currently serves as an
14 adjunct lecturer for the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Under Ms. Burke Bryant's guidance, KIDS COUNT’s focus has been on
17 “disparities in child outcomes by race, ethnicity, and income” and has demonstrated the urgent
18 necessity to review, alter, and often dismantle the structures that have led to these inequities; and

19 WHEREAS, During Ms. Burke Bryant’s tenure at KIDS COUNT, the organization has

1 become the State’s leading child advocacy organization currently ranked 4th best in the country
2 for the percentage of children covered by health insurance, going from about 12 percent of
3 uninsured children to now only about 2 percent; and

4 WHEREAS, In addition, KIDS COUNT’s annual factbook “has become a go-to source of
5 data and policy information for multiple indicators of child well-being across the state”; and

6 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Burke Bryant has been described as “a hero for children and for
7 justice” a truly fitting and well- earned commendation; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
9 thanks and honors Elizabeth Burke Bryant on the occasion of her retirement as Executive
10 Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT after twenty-eight years of dedicated and exemplary
11 service to the children, youth and families in Rhode Island. We moreover wish her good health,
12 much happiness, and success in all her future endeavors; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
14 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Elizabeth Burke Bryant.

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