

2024 -- S 2748

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO GLORIA GEMMA FOUNDATION

Introduced By: Senators McKenney, and Pearson

Date Introduced: March 08, 2024

Referred To: Senate Finance

1 WHEREAS, The Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation ("Gloria Gemma"),
2 an independent, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, has served as a beacon of hope over the last
3 twenty years for people touched by cancer throughout Rhode Island and surrounding
4 communities; and

5 WHEREAS, According to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Rhode Island has the
6 highest incidence of breast cancer diagnoses, and the World Population Review ranks Rhode
7 Island tenth out of fifty states for highest incidence of all cancers combined; and

8 WHEREAS, The National Cancer Institute reported that "as of January 2022, it is
9 estimated that there are 18.1 million cancer survivors in the United States representing
10 approximately 5.4% of the population, projected to increase by 24.4%, to 22.5 million, by 2032";
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Gloria Gemma has earned a stellar reputation as a leader in cancer
13 rehabilitation and survivorship, which has captured the attention of national organizations; and

14 WHEREAS, They offer direct support to cancer patients and survivors with support
15 groups facilitated by licensed medical social workers, and also provide financial support to low-
16 income cancer patients experiencing economic hardships as a result of their cancer diagnoses; and

17 WHEREAS, Through Gloria Gemma's innovative programs and direct support, they are
18 helping cancer patients and survivors emotionally heal from the trauma caused by their cancer
19 diagnoses; and

20 WHEREAS, Gloria Gemma's approach to emotional, physical, and spiritual healing is to

1 provide innovative programming delivered with compassionate care; and

2 WHEREAS, Although Rhode Island has the highest incidence of breast cancer in the
3 country, it also ranks fourth in the country for breast cancer screenings; and

4 WHEREAS, Gloria Gemma believes the high rate of screenings is due to the free
5 education and awareness the organization provides to the general public and to the people they
6 serve; and

7 WHEREAS, Rhode Island also has one of the lowest cancer mortality rates in the
8 country, which can be attributed to early detection from regular cancer screenings; and

9 WHEREAS, Gloria Gemma provides up-to-date cancer education to the community to
10 reduce their risks of developing cancer, and education to survivors to help them reduce their risks
11 of recurrence; and

12 WHEREAS, The Gloria Gemma Foundation partners with all the medical facilities in
13 order to deliver comfort and care when a cancer patient needs it most; and

14 WHEREAS, Gloria Gemma also offers free yoga, exercise, and nutrition classes to help
15 cancer patients and survivors live healthier lives; and

16 WHEREAS, The organization believes that cancer survivorship should be accessible to
17 all, regardless of where people come from or who they are; and

18 WHEREAS, As there is no finite timeline on cancer survivorship, as it is a perpetual
19 process, the organization ensures all people can participate in the programs for as long as they
20 feel they need them; and

21 WHEREAS, Gloria Gemma is pushing the boundaries of traditional support and
22 providing creative programming that promotes healing of the whole person and generates social
23 networking opportunities for patients and survivors to connect with one another; now, therefore
24 be it

25 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not
26 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2024-2025, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars
27 (\$500,000) to provide operational support for the Gloria Gemma Foundation; and the state
28 controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw his orders upon the general treasurer for
29 payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be from time required, upon receipt of properly
30 authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
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- 1 This resolution would appropriate the sum of \$500,000 to the Gloria Gemma Fountain.

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