

2025 -- H 6015

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LC001237  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$250,000 TO THE REFUGEE DREAM CENTER (RDC),  
\$250,000 TO HIGHER GROUND INTERNATIONAL, AND \$250,000 TO DORCAS  
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Morales, Biah, Potter, Stewart, Batista, DeSimone,  
Slater, Handy, Tanzi, and Furtado

Date Introduced: February 28, 2025

Referred To: House Finance

1           WHEREAS, The Refugee Dream Center (RDC), located in the City of Providence, is a  
2 nonprofit 501(c)(3) founded by Dr. Omar Bah in 2015, with a primary focus on resettlement and  
3 assistance with the challenges faced by refugees when they come to the United States; and

4           WHEREAS, The RDC “offers assistance in finding employment, education, and housing,  
5 while also providing essential skills and knowledge such as navigating the U.S. healthcare  
6 system, improving English language proficiency, and guiding individuals on the path to  
7 citizenship”; and

8           WHEREAS, Higher Ground International and Dorcas International Institute of Rhode  
9 Island are nonprofit organizations dedicated to assisting refugees and other marginalized  
10 communities with refugee resettlement operations; and

11           WHEREAS, Under newly signed executive orders, the State Department’s refugee  
12 program is now suspended and the RDC, Higher Ground International, and Dorcas International  
13 Institute of Rhode Island have lost federal funding and staff; now, therefore be it

14           RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of money in the treasury not  
15 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2025-2026, the sum of two hundred fifty thousand  
16 dollars (\$250,000) to the Refugee Dream Center (RDC), two hundred fifty thousand dollars  
17 (\$250,000) to Higher Ground International, and two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to  
18 Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island; and the state controller is hereby authorized and  
19 directed to draw their orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of said sum, or so much

1 thereof as may be from time to time required, upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

J O I N T   R E S O L U T I O N

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$250,000 TO THE REFUGEE DREAM CENTER (RDC),  
\$250,000 TO HIGHER GROUND INTERNATIONAL, AND \$250,000 TO DORCAS  
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RHODE ISLAND

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- 1            This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$250,000 to the Refugee
- 2   Dream Center (RDC), \$250,000 to Higher Ground International, and \$250,000 to Dorcas
- 3   International Institute of Rhode Island.

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