

2026 -- H 8339

=====
LC006168
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND PARENT
INFORMATION NETWORK

Introduced By: Representatives Shanley, Bennett, Edwards, Solomon, McNamara,
Read, Tanzi, and Hopkins

Date Introduced: March 20, 2026

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN) is a statewide
2 nonprofit of peer professionals on a mission to help Rhode Islanders of all abilities, ages, and
3 background get the support they need to thrive; and

4 WHEREAS, RIPIN helps Rhode Islanders navigate special education, health care, and
5 healthy aging; and

6 WHEREAS, RIPIN is a peer-led organization founded 35 years ago by parents of
7 children with disabilities, and most of RIPIN's board and staff are parents or caregivers of a loved
8 one with a disability or special healthcare need; and

9 WHEREAS, RIPIN delivers large-scale, front-line impact, with more than 115,000 client
10 encounters in 2025; and

11 WHEREAS, RIPIN is Rhode Island's federally-designated parent training and
12 information center for special education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
13 (IDEA), and in 2025 RIPIN's special education team provided individualized support to a record
14 number of more than 2,000 families; reached 3,000 families with live workshops and 20,000
15 families with pre-recorded online content; and attended 650 individualized education program
16 meetings with families; and

17 WHEREAS, RIPIN's health insurance consumer assistance call center serves 3,000
18 Rhode Islanders annually and has saved Rhode Islanders more than \$10,000,000 since 2018 by
19 resolving coverage problems and preventing avoidable costs; and

1 WHEREAS, RIPIN also provides peer support to families caring for vulnerable older
2 adults, helping more older adults get the support they need to live healthy and independent lives
3 in the community; and

4 WHEREAS, RIPIN is a key systems partner for state agencies, under contract to provide
5 peer support and parent engagement for priority initiatives such as Early Intervention and
6 Maternal Child Health; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of money in the treasury not
8 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the sum of five hundred thousand
9 dollars (\$500,000) to the Rhode Island Parent Information Network; and the state controller is
10 hereby authorized and directed to draw their orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of
11 said sum, or so much thereof as may be from time to time required, upon receipt of properly
12 authenticated vouchers.

=====
LC006168
=====

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 \$500,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND PARENT
INFORMATION NETWORK

- 1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$500,000 to RIPIN.

=====
LC006168
=====