

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$150,000 TO THE WOMEN'S FUND OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Alzate, Kazarian, Casimiro, Tanzi, Boylan, Cruz, Diaz, McEntee, Caldwell, and Speakman

Date Introduced: February 08, 2023

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, Women comprise half of the population and the workforce in Rhode Island,
2 yet significant gender gaps exist in wages, wealth, health, and civic participation compared to
3 men in our State: and

4 WHEREAS, The deepening cost-of-living crisis impacts women more severely than men,
5 as women continue to earn and accumulate wealth at lower levels, particularly for women of
6 color; and

7 WHEREAS, Increased investment in women is proven to improve family outcomes,
8 which in turn reduces poverty significantly, helps strengthen community, and promotes economic
9 growth. Yet, less than 1.9 percent of philanthropy is directed specifically toward women and
10 girls, and less than 1 percent toward women and girls of color; and

11 WHEREAS, The Women's Fund of Rhode Island seeks to invest in women and girls
12 through research, advocacy, grant-making, and strategic partnerships designed to achieve gender
13 equity through systemic change; and

14 WHEREAS, The Women's Fund of Rhode Island harnesses the power of philanthropy to
15 create transformative social change for women and girls and our community. The organization
16 achieves this change by producing local research on the status of women and girls; training
17 women in leadership and self-advocacy skills; and working with community leaders to ensure
18 women are at the tables where decisions are made and resources are allocated; and

19 WHEREAS, The Women's Fund of Rhode Island's initiatives have helped women to

1 achieve higher salaries, find good paying jobs, and create more gender equitable workplaces; and
2 WHEREAS, The Women’s Fund of Rhode Island alone cannot create transformative
3 social change for women and girls in our community; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not
5 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2023-2024, the sum of one hundred fifty thousand
6 dollars (\$150,000) to the Women’s Fund of Rhode Island to implement programs and initiatives
7 that seek to close the gender wage, wealth, health, and leadership gaps, including, but not limited
8 to, original research and workshops on self-advocacy, leadership skills, and DEI (Diversity,
9 Equity & Inclusion) principles; and the state controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw
10 his orders upon the general treasurer for payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be from
11 time required, upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$150,000 TO THE WOMEN'S FUND OF RHODE
ISLAND

1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$150,000 to The
2 Women's Fund of Rhode Island to implement programs and initiatives that seek to close the
3 gender wage, wealth, health, and leadership gaps.

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