

2021 -- H 6116

LC002372

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

THANKING DR. BEATA NELKEN FOR HER TIRELESS EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL FALLS AS IT CONFRONTS THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS, AND CONGRATULATING HER ON BEING HONORED BY THE CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS ON MARCH 11 AS PART OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2021

Introduced By: Representatives Giraldo, McLaughlin, Barros, Filippi, Blazejewski, and Ajello

Date Introduced: March 09, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Rhode Island and the Northeast in the  
2 winter of 2020, it quickly became apparent that Central Falls was going to be Rhode Island's  
3 pandemic hot spot. More than ever, the community needed the services of a devoted public  
4 servant such as Dr. Beata Nelken; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Nelken was born in California, the granddaughter of a woman who  
6 immigrated to the United States from Mexico. She graduated from Wesleyan University and the  
7 University of Connecticut School of Medicine. She completed her medical residency at Brown  
8 University, and did her training at Hasbro Children's Hospital. She also took part in medical  
9 brigades in Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Nelken then proceeded to practice at the Thundermist Health Center for  
11 ten years and at the Blackstone Valley Community Health Center for four years before she  
12 decided to form her own pediatric practice in Central Falls last year. She was motivated to make  
13 this decision after her work in Central Falls High School where she saw many families, including  
14 recent immigrants, who were unable to afford prescription medication; and

15 WHEREAS, When Dr. Nelken opened her practice in Central Falls, she provided free  
16 health care to uninsured children. Unfortunately, shortly thereafter, the pandemic hit our nation,  
17 and Central Falls quickly became a COVID-19 hot spot. Dr. Nelken quickly sprang into action.  
18 With an Abbott machine provided by the Rhode Island Department of Health, and a second

1 Abbott machine and a one-hour PCR machine, Dr. Nelken and her staff literally spent time  
2 standing on the sidewalk, offering people free COVID-19 tests; and

3 WHEREAS, During the early period of state testing held at the Twin River Casino in  
4 Lincoln, many Central Falls residents struggled due to language barriers, lack of referrals from  
5 primary care doctors, or were unable to get to Lincoln. As a result, her office quickly became a  
6 trusted and convenient source of testing within Central Falls. Within a year, her staff had grown  
7 to fifteen, all able to speak Spanish, and hundreds of tests were conducted; and

8 WHEREAS, As Dr. Nelken observed the immense suffering that has taken place over the  
9 last year in Central Falls, she says that she has felt a “call to duty to respond to the dire need of  
10 the situation.” Thanks to Dr. Nelken’s tireless work ethic and enormous reservoir of compassion  
11 for the people of Central Falls, many Central Falls residents have received much-needed and vital  
12 medical services they would have otherwise been unable to attain; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
14 thanks Dr. Beata Nelken for her tireless efforts to assist the community of Central Falls as it  
15 confronts the negative effects of the COVID-19 virus, and furthermore, congratulates her on  
16 being honored by the City of Central Falls on March 11 as part of International Women’s Day  
17 2021; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of state be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
19 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Dr. Beata Nelken.

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