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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

**WISHING THE HONORABLE SHELBY MALDONADO WELL IN HER NEW POSITION
AS THE HISPANIC OUTREACH DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN ISRAELI PUBLIC
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (AIPAC) AND THANKING HER FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY
RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF CENTRAL FALLS AND THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senators Crowley, and Ruggiero

Date Introduced: January 15, 2020

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Shelby Maldonado is leaving the Rhode Island House of
2 Representatives and the State of Rhode Island after a varied and distinguished public service
3 career; and

4 WHEREAS, Representative Maldonado, a graduate of Central Falls High School and the
5 University of Rhode Island, served as a member of the United States Peace Corps in Zambia,
6 Africa, from 2011 to 2013. She began her distinguished public service career in 2013 when she
7 was elected to the Central Falls City Council, and quickly garnered notice and praise for her
8 tireless devotion to her community; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2014, Shelby Maldonado was elected to serve the constituents of District
10 56, Central Falls, in the Rhode Island House of Representatives. She immediately impressed her
11 colleagues and observers with her integrity, work ethic, preparedness and her eloquence. In
12 recognition of these attributes, she quickly assumed leadership positions. She was named a
13 Deputy Majority Leader in January of 2019, and served as the Second Vice-Chairwoman of the
14 House Committee on Municipal Government and the House Committee on Conduct. She was
15 also a member of the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare, the House Committee
16 on Small Business and the House Committee on Special Legislation. In addition, she chaired a
17 Special Commission to study the Minimum Housing Act; and

18 WHEREAS, As a member of the House, Representative Maldonado was a passionate

1 supporter of civil rights for women and of due process in the criminal justice system. She
2 sponsored legislation that prohibited employers from discriminating against, and failing to
3 provide reasonable accommodations for, employees due to pregnancy or medical conditions
4 related to pregnancy or childbirth. She also sponsored legislation that removed the requirement
5 that an individual convicted of and sentenced for a crime, be presently serving in prison prior to
6 requesting forensic DNA testing, and she successfully championed the Uniform Act on the
7 Prevention and Remedies for Human Trafficking, which established harsh penalties and remedies
8 to combat human trafficking; and

9 WHEREAS, Representative Maldonado also sponsored legislation that continued the
10 status quo relating to operator and chauffer's licenses to approved recipients under the Deferred
11 Action for Childhood Arrivals program, introduced a justice-reform bill that requires Rhode
12 Island Cities and Towns to comply with certain procedures when prosecuting defendants, such as
13 the right to counsel, and introduced an education-reform law that establishes the College Crusade
14 of Rhode Island, a nonprofit organization that will administer and operate all program services
15 and manage scholarship resources; and

16 WHEREAS, Representative Maldonado has fought tirelessly on behalf of workers' rights.
17 She introduced two bills that were signed into law. The first created a statutory vehicle for the
18 creation and functioning of workers' cooperatives which are corporations and democratically
19 owned by their members, and the second amended the worksharing law by allowing employers
20 more flexibility in the reduction of work hours among their employees and by allowing more
21 leeway on the start date of an adopted worksharing plan; and

22 WHEREAS, In 2016, Representative Maldonado was one of 48 state leaders across the
23 United States that were selected for the prestigious Henry Toll Fellowship Program sponsored by
24 the Council of State Governments; and

25 WHEREAS, Representative Maldonado most recently worked as the Director of
26 Communications for Local 51, and was attending the Roger Williams University School of Law.
27 She has accepted a new position as the Hispanic Outreach Director of the American Israeli Public
28 Affairs Committee (AIPAC), and plans to transfer to a law school in the New York area. Her
29 sterling record of achievement and integrity in public service has left a legacy to be admired and
30 emulated by all; now, therefore be it

31 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
32 hereby wishes our colleague, the Honorable Shelby Maldonado, good luck and much success in
33 all her future endeavors; and be it further

34 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to

1 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Shelby Maldonado.

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