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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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SENATE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM  
IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Introduced By: Senators Lanzi, Paiva Weed, Lynch, Crowley, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: January 17, 2012

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, In 1987, Congress declared March as “Women’s History Month” to  
2 acknowledge the important role women have played in shaping America; and

3 WHEREAS, Although women constitute a majority of the nation’s population, their  
4 achievements and contributions are underrepresented in museums and memorials; and

5 WHEREAS, In a recent survey of eighteen history books, only 10 percent of the people  
6 identified were women; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1999, the President’s Commission on the Celebration of Women in  
8 American History called for a women’s history museum to be established on the National Mall in  
9 Washington, D.C.; and

10 WHEREAS, The National Women’s History Museum (NWHM), founded in 1996, is a  
11 nonpartisan, nonprofit, educational institution dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and  
12 celebrating the diverse historic contributions of women and fully integrating the heritage of  
13 women into this nation’s history; and

14 WHEREAS, The NWHM seeks a site on or close to the National Mall and in close  
15 proximity to the White House and United States Capitol; and

16 WHEREAS, The NWHM has identified federally-owned property for sale near the  
17 National Mall; and

18 WHEREAS, Legislation is currently pending in Congress seeking authorization for the  
19 NWHM to be able to purchase this property at fair market value with privately raised funds. No

1 federal funds are being requested for the purchase of this land; and

2 WHEREAS, There are museums dedicated to flight, postage stamps, buildings, and many  
3 other important people and issues, but not to women, and yet women comprise 51 percent of the  
4 nation's population; and

5 WHEREAS, The NWHM will showcase the full history of women in the United States  
6 and the contributions they have made and continue to make in the marketplace, arts and sciences,  
7 government, entertainment, education, home, and community; and

8 WHEREAS, A coalition of 43 women's organizations representing 8 million women,  
9 which includes the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL), supports the efforts of  
10 the NWHM to establish a permanent residence on the National Mall, the most prominent location  
11 for museums to be situated in the nation's capital; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
13 hereby respectfully urges the esteemed members of the United States House of Representatives  
14 and the United States Senate to support the NWHM's efforts to secure a permanent home on or  
15 close to the National Mall for a museum that will highlight the important role women have played  
16 in shaping this great nation; and be further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
18 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the National Foundation for Women Legislators  
19 and the entire Rhode Island Congressional Delegation.

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