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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**CONGRATULATING MOUHAMADOU SYLLA ON HIS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
AND EXPRESSING OUR ADMIRATION FOR HIS IMMENSE COURAGE IN THE FACE
OF ADVERSITY**

Introduced By: Representatives Kilmartin, E Coderre, San Bento, Messier, and DaSilva

Date Introduced: January 12, 2010

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Walt Disney once said, “All our dreams can come true...if we have the
2 courage to pursue them.” With the support and encouragement of his family, friends, and
3 teachers, and a resolve that only comes through true adversity, Mouhamadou Sylla has attained
4 his High School Diploma from Tolman High School in Pawtucket, Rhode Island; and

5 WHEREAS, As is all too often the case, Mouhamadou experienced setbacks and
6 obstacles that threatened to deter his continuing education; and

7 WHEREAS, Mouhamadou Sylla was born in the Republic of Senegal, located in western
8 Africa. In 2006, after being diagnosed with cancer, he traveled to the United States to reunite with
9 his father, brother, and sisters, and to begin his treatments; and

10 WHEREAS, While fighting his ongoing battle with cancer, which has included numerous
11 operations, including the amputation of his right leg, Mouhamadou never wavered in his faith,
12 has been selflessly and extraordinarily grateful for the opportunities he has been given, and has
13 never lost sight of the value of an education; and

14 WHEREAS, Cancer is indiscriminate, is brutally unfair, knows no boundaries, and does
15 not reward courage. Mouhamadou was recently diagnosed with cancer in his lung and will soon
16 need to undergo surgery yet again; and

17 WHEREAS, Mouhamadou’s teachers and Pawtucket’s school administrators chose to not
18 stand by helplessly on the sidelines. They arranged a special early graduation for Mouhamadou
19 on the eve of this latest surgery, and with fellow seniors, family, and friends looking on,

1 Mouhamadou was awarded his high school diploma; and

2 WHEREAS, By virtue of his accomplishments, Mouhamadou Sylla, a “quiet and private”
3 man, serves as a role model for courage in the face of adversity and for strength in his
4 determination to have a better life through learning. He has made positive contributions to his
5 school and his community and he is a true inspiration for us all; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
7 Providence Plantations hereby congratulates and applauds Mouhamadou Sylla on attaining his
8 high school diploma. We furthermore wish him our sincerest hope for a full recovery and for his
9 continued success, with all the very best that life has to offer; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mouhamadou Sylla.

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