

2020 -- H 7949

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMENDING THE RHODE ISLAND FOUNDATION AND NEIL D. STEINBERG,  
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE RHODE ISLAND  
FOUNDATION

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, Shekarchi, Abney, Kennedy, and Noret

Date Introduced: March 03, 2020

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Neil D. Steinberg is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Rhode  
2 Island Foundation, the largest philanthropic organization in Rhode Island, working to address the  
3 needs of our State's diverse communities through philanthropy, grant-making, and community  
4 leadership; and

5           WHEREAS, In 2008, Mr. Steinberg came to the Rhode Island Foundation, after serving  
6 as Vice President of development at Brown University, his alma mater. He had previously  
7 worked for FleetBoston Financial, where he had served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
8 of Fleet Bank Rhode Island; and

9           WHEREAS, In addition to his esteemed financial credentials, Mr. Steinberg has gained  
10 invaluable wisdom through his associations with a panoply of educational, business, and altruistic  
11 organizations; and

12           WHEREAS, Most recently, The Rhode Island Foundation, under Mr. Steinberg's  
13 leadership in conjunction with key stakeholders, has issued two reports creating statewide, long-  
14 term plans for both education and health; and

15           WHEREAS, Engaging the shared vision of a 30-member executive leadership group, the  
16 Rhode Island Foundation unveiled a 10-year plan to address healthcare inequity in Rhode Island,  
17 entitled "Health in Rhode Island: A Long-Term Vision." The report calls attention to health  
18 disparities in Rhode Island, such as the fact that "the infant mortality rate for Black and African-  
19 American Rhode Islanders is 2.6 times that of whites," and that "Hispanic and Asian residents are

1 far more likely to go without a primary source of care”; and

2 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Foundation is supporting the long-range planning efforts  
3 with a \$1 million commitment to "kick-start" the process which will focus on health outcomes,  
4 not health care. An “Evaluation Framework” committee was established and will continue to  
5 convene a few times a year and will annually release updated data for tracking the progress  
6 toward achieving health equity in order to make Rhode Island the healthiest state in the nation;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, In February of 2020, The Rhode Island Foundation released an 18-month  
9 study by a team of educators, nonprofit leaders and business executives entitled, "Chart a Course,  
10 Stay the Course" that established a set of broad goals to chart the course for a long-term vision to  
11 improve the state's public education and hold students to high standards, including continuing  
12 rigorous testing, improving teacher preparation and investing principals with more authority. The  
13 Rhode Island Foundation has committed \$1 million for improving public education in our State;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Steinberg has gained a vast reputation for his innovative collaborations,  
16 vision, and leadership of the Rhode Island Foundation, resulting in the positive outcomes for  
17 myriad issues that face Rhode Island, and he is eminently worthy of our gratitude and  
18 recognition; now, therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
20 Providence Plantations hereby recognizes and thanks the Rhode Island Foundation and Neil D.  
21 Steinberg along with the leadership groups comprised of senior stakeholders in education and  
22 healthcare for their visionary leadership and commitment to improving the quality of education  
23 for the children of our State and healthcare outcomes for all Rhode Islanders; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That this House hereby urges the Department of Health, the Commissioner  
25 of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Rhode Island Department of Education, and all  
26 stakeholders in our State's health care and educational systems to continue to work together to  
27 advance and enhance the quality and delivery of health care and education in order to improve  
28 outcomes for all our citizens; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
30 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Mr. Neil D. Steinberg, President and Chief  
31 Executive Officer of the Rhode Island Foundation, Nicole Alexander-Scott, Director of the Rhode  
32 Island Department of Health, and Angélica M. Infante-Green, Commissioner of Elementary and

1 Secondary Education for the State of Rhode Island.

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