

2018 -- H 8009

LC005323

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THOMAS NERNEY

Introduced By: Representatives Tanzi, McEntee, Fogarty, Shekarchi, and Filippi

Date Introduced: March 28, 2018

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Thomas
2 Nerney, the devoted husband of Jean M. Bowen, loving father of Kevin Nerney, and the highly-
3 respected Executive Director of the Institute on Health and Quality Ethics; and

4 WHEREAS, Thomas Nerney was the son of Mary and Thomas Nerney, and the brother
5 of Mary Nerney, CND, Dr. Anne Balboni, Psy.D, James M. Nerney, and John J. Nerney. He had
6 attended the City University of New York; and

7 WHEREAS, For much of his life, Mr. Nerney endeavored to improve the lives of people
8 with physical, medical, and developmental disabilities, and most recently, as Executive Director
9 of The Institute for Health Quality and Quality Ethics, Mr. Nerney was working on the
10 dissemination and development of a foundation for ethical decision-making based on best
11 practices and quality; and

12 WHEREAS, Combining an equal measure of compassion and a tireless work ethic, Mr.
13 Nerney was a noted researcher, author, and lecturer on quality and ethics in human services and
14 public policy issues regarding persons with disabilities. He had recently served as Director for
15 The Center for Self-Determination, "a national effort to work with states, individuals with
16 disabilities, family members, and professionals to reform and implement the new health care and
17 insurance provisions with a values-based self-determination perspective"; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Nerney had served as the Co-Director of the Robert Wood Johnson
19 Foundation's program entitled "Self-Determination for Persons with Developmental Disabilities,"
20 was the Principal Investigator for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation project "to determine

1 changes in cost and quality of life for persons with disabilities when they gain control of the
2 resources," and had served on the Obama pre-election Policy Committee, to name just a few of
3 his many missions; and

4 WHEREAS, Recognized by his peers for his outstanding efforts, Mr. Nerney was
5 awarded a certificate in bio-ethics from Georgetown University and both the Kennedy Foundation
6 Fellowship in Public Policy and the Mary Switzer Distinguished Fellowship from the Institute for
7 Rehabilitation and Research. In addition, he was the recipient of a graduate fellowship in
8 philosophy from Trinity College; and

9 WHEREAS, Also a man of great faith, Mr. Nerney was a long-time member of the
10 Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County; and

11 WHEREAS, Thomas Nerney was a gentleman and a humanitarian who left this world a
12 better place because of his life's endeavors. He enriched the lives of all who knew him and he will
13 be dearly missed; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
15 Providence Plantations hereby expresses our deepest sympathies on the passing of Thomas
16 Nerney; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Jean Bowen and Family.

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