

2024 -- H 8033

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$150,000 TO WOMEN'S FUND OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Alzate, Diaz, Shallcross Smith, Vella-Wilkinson,  
Spears, Ajello, Fogarty, Caldwell, Cortvriend, and Cotter  
Date Introduced: March 06, 2024

Referred To: House Finance

1           WHEREAS, Women comprise half of the population and the workforce in Rhode Island.  
2   Gender gaps exist in wage, wealth, health, and civic participation compared to men in our State,  
3   and the deepening cost-of-living crisis also impacts women more severely than men, as women  
4   continue to earn and accumulate wealth at lower levels, particularly for women of color; and

5           WHEREAS, Increased investment in women is proven to improve family outcomes,  
6   which in turn reduces poverty significantly, helps strengthen community, and promotes economic  
7   growth. Yet, less than 1.9 percent of philanthropy is directed specifically towards women and  
8   girls, and less than 1 percent towards women and girls of color; and

9           WHEREAS, Women's Fund of Rhode Island seeks to invest in women and girls through  
10   research, advocacy, grant-making, and strategic partnerships designed to achieve gender equity  
11   through systemic change. Women's Fund of Rhode Island harnesses the power of philanthropy to  
12   create transformative social change for women and girls and our community; and

13           WHEREAS, The organization achieves this by producing local research on the status of  
14   women and girls; training women in leadership and self-advocacy skills; and working with  
15   community leaders to ensure women are at the tables where decisions are made and resources are  
16   allocated; and

17           WHEREAS, Women's Fund of Rhode Island's initiatives have helped women to achieve  
18   higher salaries, find good paying jobs, and create more gender equitable workplaces, but alone,  
19   the Women's Fund of Rhode Island cannot create transformative social change for women and  
20   girls in our community; now, therefore be it

1           RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not  
2 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2024-2025, the sum of one hundred fifty thousand  
3 dollars (\$150,000) to Women’s Fund of Rhode Island to implement programs and initiatives that  
4 seek to close the gender wage, wealth, health and leadership gaps, including, but not limited to,  
5 original research; civic engagement programming for youth; workshops on self-advocacy,  
6 leadership skills, and DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) principles; and the state controller is  
7 hereby authorized and directed to draw his orders upon the general treasurer for payment of said  
8 sum, or so much thereof as may be from time required, upon receipt of properly authenticated  
9 vouchers.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
JOINT RESOLUTION  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$150,000 TO WOMEN'S FUND OF RHODE ISLAND

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- 1           This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$150,000 to the
- 2 Women's Fund of Rhode Island to implement programs and initiatives that seek to close the
- 3 gender wage, wealth, health and leadership gaps.

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