

**2016 -- H 8260**

=====  
LC006021  
=====

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016**

---

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

**HONORING ELLEN LENOX SMITH FOR HER COMPASSION, COURAGE, ADVOCACY  
AND LEADERSHIP**

Introduced By: Representatives Slater, Edwards, Chippendale, Diaz, and Marcello

Date Introduced: May 26, 2016

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Ellen Lenox Smith is an accomplished public school teacher of 28 years, a  
2 small farmer, and was a competitive swimmer and coach, who was diagnosed with two  
3 debilitating incurable medical conditions in 2004; and

4           WHEREAS, Ellen's medical conditions produced extreme disabling and unrelenting  
5 pain and prevented her body from metabolizing conventional pain medications; and

6           WHEREAS, Ellen's physician recommended medical marijuana as a last resort to ease  
7 her suffering and Ellen overcame her skepticism to learn about this treatment; and

8           WHEREAS, Medical marijuana successfully alleviated much of Ellen's suffering and  
9 improved her quality of life; and

10           WHEREAS, Ellen reached out to physicians and other Rhode Island patients to support  
11 and educate them regarding the legally effective use of medical marijuana; and

12           WHEREAS, Ellen and her husband, Stuart, became caregivers for ten patients suffering  
13 from debilitating medical conditions; and

14           WHEREAS, Ellen works tirelessly to raise awareness about her rare medical condition,  
15 Ehlers Danos Syndrome, in both the medical and patient community so that others will receive  
16 earlier diagnosis and treatment; and

17           WHEREAS, Ellen generously donates her time and skills as an advocate and board  
18 member of Rhode Island Patient Advocacy Coalition (RIPAC), is an ambassador for the Rhode  
19 Island Arthritis Foundation and for the U.S. Pain Foundation, and is a writer and educator for the

1 Rhode Island Ehlers Danos Support Group; and

2 WHEREAS, Ellen has worked on both the federal and state level to raise awareness  
3 about the challenges of our citizens whose lives are compromised by chronic pain; and

4 WHEREAS, In spite of her often fragile health and complications, Ellen has generously  
5 utilized her own challenges to inform, inspire, and care for others; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
7 Providence Plantations hereby recognizes and honors Ellen Lenox Smith for her compassion,  
8 courage, advocacy and leadership; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ellen Lenox Smith.

=====  
LC006021  
=====