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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL OF CRANSTON FOR FINISHING IN 1ST AND 2ND PLACE IN THE STATEWIDE CYBERPATRIOT NATIONAL YOUTH CYBER DEFENSE CHALLENGE, AND IN THE TOP FIFTEEN PERCENT OF ALL TEAMS COMPETING ACROSS THE NATION

Introduced By: Senator Hanna M. Gallo

Date Introduced: February 26, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, CyberPatriot is a national youth cyber education program created in 2009 in  
2 the United States by the Air Force Association (AFA) to help encourage and guide young  
3 students toward careers in cybersecurity, engineering, mathematics and other science and  
4 technology fields; and

5           WHEREAS, According to Ms. Donna Wayles, Technology Educator at Western Hills  
6 Middle School, starting last September students in grades six and seven expressed an interest in  
7 studying issues related to cybersecurity; and

8           WHEREAS, Eight of Ms. Wayles' students, sixth graders Aidan Ranaldi, Taha Alnahas,  
9 Vignesh Peddi, and Daniel Nikitskaya, and seventh graders Henry Cheng, Jack Zukowski,  
10 Hannah Couitt, and Jacquelyn Prata, formed a club, the Western Hills Middle School  
11 Cybersecurity Team, and competed in the most recent CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber  
12 Defense Competitions; and

13           WHEREAS, In the State-Level competition the Western Hills Team earned first and  
14 second-place honors competing against fifteen other Rhode Island schools. In the semifinal  
15 round, 848 schools across the nation took part and the Western Hills finished in the top fifteen  
16 percent of all teams competing including high schools and JROTC programs. The Western Hills  
17 Team is ranked 49th out of 600 middle schools nationwide; and

18           WHEREAS, Competing students learned how to operate Windows Server 2016,

1 Windows 8, Windows 10, and Linux and were graded on how accurately they recognized and  
2 secured system vulnerabilities on a virtual network. Additionally, the Western Hills Team created  
3 their own discord server which allowed them to share files with each other and to virtually  
4 communicate with each other; and

5 WHEREAS, According to Ms. Wayles, the Western Hills Team worked very hard and  
6 put in many hours of lab work and additional time studying and preparing for these competitions.  
7 As a result of their hard work, they have succeeded at both the statewide and national levels, and  
8 have prepared themselves for successful careers in the future in the STEM fields (science,  
9 technology, engineering and math); now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
11 hereby heartily congratulates the Western Hills Middle School Cybersecurity Team for finishing  
12 in 1st and 2nd in the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber defense Challenge, and in the top fifteen  
13 percent of all teams competing across the nation; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
15 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Ms. Donna Wayles, Technology Educator at  
16 Western Hills Middle School, and Aidan Ranaldi, Taha Alnahas, Vignesh Peddi, Daniel  
17 Nikitskaya, Henry Cheng, Jack Zukowski, Hannah Couitt, and Jacquelyn Prata.

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