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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING ITS DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE  
ANN HANSON

Introduced By: Senator David E. Bates

Date Introduced: February 26, 2014

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, Former Rhode Island State Senator Ann H. Hanson passed away in  
2 Potomac, Maryland after a short battle with cancer. She was a resident of Barrington, Rhode  
3 Island from 1966 to 2012 and began wintering in Avon Park Florida in 1995, making it her  
4 permanent home in May of 2012; and

5           WHEREAS, Senator Ann H. Hanson was born in St. Albans, Vermont on May 10, 1935,  
6 the only child of Leroy Edward and Bertha Rebecca (McLea) Harrington. She was raised in St.  
7 Albans, graduating from the University of Vermont in 1956 with a BS degree in Medical  
8 Technology, and subsequently worked as a medical researcher. In 1958, Ann married Daniel  
9 James "Jim" Hanson, and left her career to devote herself full time to her children and community  
10 service; and

11           WHEREAS, Ann devoted much of her time to charitable and civic organizations. She  
12 was a member of numerous organizations including the local PTA, the League of Women Voters,  
13 the St. Andrews School Corporation, the Rhode Island Hospital Corporation, the Women's Guild  
14 at St. Luke's Church in Barrington, the Roger Williams Hospital Auxiliary in Providence, Rhode  
15 Island. She was also a Girl Scout Leader. Ann was a member of the Barrington Jr. Women's Club  
16 from 1965 to 1972 and served on its Board of Directors in 1971. She also became a member of  
17 the Barrington Chapter of the League of Women voters in 1971, later serving on its Board of  
18 Directors in 1972, and as President from 1973 to 1975; and

19           WHEREAS, Ann began her distinguished service as a public servant when she was

1 elected to the Barrington Town Council in 1975, serving as Vice-President from 1976 to 1978,  
2 and President from 1978 to 1980. In 1980 she was elected to serve her Barrington constituents in  
3 the Rhode Island House of Representatives, and was later elected on June 21, 1983 to serve in the  
4 Rhode Island State Senate, making her the only woman in the history of the Rhode Island General  
5 assembly to move from the House of Representatives to the Rhode Island State Senate in the  
6 same term. In 1987, Ann became the Rhode Island Senate's Minority Whip; and

7 WHEREAS, In her distinguished 12 years of service in the Rhode Island General  
8 Assembly, Senator Hanson worked tirelessly on behalf of her Barrington constituents.  
9 Throughout her legislative career she favored such measures as the Bottle Bill, preservation of  
10 open space, compulsory automobile insurance, reform of workers' compensation, the "Living  
11 Will", combating child abuse and increased support for education. Ann was a passionate  
12 supporter of women's rights, and worked for the passage of a state equal rights amendment,  
13 funding for child daycare, protection of abused wives, equal pay and equal opportunity, and  
14 ensuring adequate child support from a divorced spouse; and

15 WHEREAS, After politics, Senator Hanson's other passions were entertaining and  
16 international travel. Ann was an avid reader who was interested in current events, and she  
17 enjoyed trips with her family to diverse corners of the world ranging from Alaska to Zimbabwe;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Hanson is predeceased by her husband, Jim Hanson, and she is  
20 survived by her four daughters, Julie Hanson Swanson and her husband, Alan Swanson of  
21 Arlington, Virginia; Jennifer Hanson and her husband David VanSpeybroeck of Lake Oswego,  
22 Oregon; Rebecca Hanson and her husband, Sudhir Rajkumar of Bethesda, Maryland; and Erica  
23 Hanson of Washington, DC. She also leaves four granddaughters, Radhika and Indira Rajkumar,  
24 and Nina and Madeline VanSpeyBroeck; a sister-in-law Julie Ann Burns and her husband, Robert  
25 Burns of Milford, New Hampshire; and numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and  
26 grandnephews; now, therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
28 hereby expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of the Honorable Senator Ann H.  
29 Hanson; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
31 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Julie Hanson Swanson of Arlington, Virginia,  
32 Jennifer Hanson of Lake Oswego, Oregon, Rebecca Hanson of Bethesda, Maryland, and Erica

1 Hanson of Washington, DC.

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