

2024 -- S 3087

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

WELCOMING BOYS TOWN NEW ENGLAND TO THE RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE
ON MAY 23, 2024, AND THANKING THEM FOR ALL THE GOOD WORK THEY DO FOR
CHILDREN AND FOR HEALING AND BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER

Introduced By: Senator Linda L. Ujifusa

Date Introduced: May 23, 2024

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Boys Town was originally founded in 1917 by Father Edward Flanagan, a
2 Catholic priest from Ireland who was a social reformer and recognized a great need for the
3 creation of an organization that would speak out and advocate on behalf of children’s rights and
4 needs, and create a safe place in which children from troubled homes would find a loving and
5 nurturing environment in which to recover and eventually thrive despite their difficult
6 circumstances; and

7 WHEREAS, Boys Town opened in 1917 with 100 boys under their care and quickly
8 grew to become nationally acclaimed with numerous positive media stories in newspapers and
9 magazines highlighting the effective methods and the positive impact it was making in the lives
10 of these at-risk-boys. This attention culminated in 1938 with the blockbuster release of the movie
11 “Boys Town” starring Spencer Tracy as Father Flanagan and Mickey Rooney as a troubled
12 youngster. Boys Town was the highest grossing film of 1938; and

13 WHEREAS, For over three decades, Boys Town New England has been a steadfast
14 beacon of hope for children and families throughout Rhode Island. In the past year alone, its
15 profound impact reached over 20,000 individuals, touching lives with a comprehensive array of
16 services. From its nurturing residential campus in Portsmouth, to its initiatives in Foster Care and
17 community-based programs across the state, Boys Town New England has made a significant
18 mark in our communities, with a notable focus on educational empowerment in Pawtucket, all
19 guided by the innovative Boys Town Education Model; and

1 WHEREAS, This dynamic intervention strategy is deeply rooted in shaping behavior,
2 cultivating meaningful connections, and instilling social skills, all aimed at uplifting communities
3 and creating enduring change. Emphasizing a proactive and preventive approach, the Boys Town
4 Education Model prioritizes building a supportive environment that nurtures holistic student
5 development and long-term success; and

6 WHEREAS, In addition, Charity Navigator, a highly respected charity rating system, has
7 awarded Boys Town its highest rating for the reputable and fiscally sound way it manages its
8 finances; and

9 WHEREAS, At its core, Boys Town model of care embodies behavioral interventions,
10 equipping children and families with the tools to access resources and empower themselves for a
11 brighter future. Through these efforts, Boys Town New England continues to inspire and uplift,
12 leaving a legacy of positive transformation in its wake; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby welcomes Boys Town
14 New England to the Rhode Island State House on May 23, 2024, and thanks them for all of the
15 good work they do on a daily basis to help children and bring families together; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
17 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Sarah Galvin, President and Executive
18 Director of Boys Town New England.

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