WHEREAS, The children of the State of Rhode Island are our future and are the ones who will provide the leadership, creativity, and productivity necessary to strengthen and sustain the quality of life within our communities; and

WHEREAS, This state must ensure that our children have the support of their communities and are provided with the educational opportunities necessary to succeed in our universities, workplaces, and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island has made a commitment to ensure that every child enters school healthy and ready to learn; and

WHEREAS, Every child in our state has the right to learn in a safe and nurturing environment, the right to be actively engaged in learning in the school community, and the right to access support from adults who serve as mentors and advisors; and

WHEREAS, In addition, each child has the right to learn 21st century skills, including art, music, technology, and foreign languages, in an intellectually challenging environment; and

WHEREAS, The Whole Child approach is based on research that indicates that to educate Rhode Island’s children effectively means we must pay attention to factors within and beyond our school buildings, curriculum, and resources, as well as integrate efforts among schools, families, and communities on behalf of our children; and

WHEREAS, Gaps in educational achievement continue to exist and are tied to disparities in health issues such as teen pregnancy, substance abuse, tobacco use, and asthma, along with environmental concerns such as lead poisoning and healthy housing; now, therefore be it
RESOLVED, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby agrees to take a Whole Child approach to our work each day. We join our efforts with those of stakeholders who are working tirelessly every day on behalf of children to support The Whole Child Initiative to assure that all policies, programs, and activities ensure that our children are healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged; and be it further RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to members of the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation.