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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF SISTER ANN C. KEEFE

Introduced By: Senators Pichardo, Paiva Weed, Ruggerio, and Goodwin

Date Introduced: January 21, 2015

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of Sister
2 Ann C. Keefe, of the Sisters of St. Joseph, a dedicated and beloved community activist who
3 advocated for peace and social justice; and

4 WHEREAS, Ann was born into the large and loving family of Patricia Gorman Keefe
5 and James Thomas Keefe. Her early years instilled her with a great empathy and compassion for
6 helping those who are most vulnerable in our society and molded her into a woman who could
7 bend without breaking, provoke without preaching, and offer love with no limits; and

8 WHEREAS, Upon graduation from high school, Sr. Ann entered the Sisters of St. Joseph
9 and pronounced her vows. She attended Our Lady of the Elms College, received her Master of
10 Social Work from Fordham, and began working as a teacher and social worker, and for the past
11 three decades, as parish minister at Saint Michael's Church, Providence; and

12 WHEREAS, With indomitable energy and a "no excuses" philosophy, Sr. Ann has taken
13 on a panoply of the most challenging issues facing our state as well as some of Providence's
14 toughest neighborhoods. Using her "charisma, smarts and talent for arm-twisting," Sr. Ann has
15 stood tall for peace, civil rights, immigrants, workers' rights, and equality; and

16 WHEREAS, Sr. Ann was involved in many community programs and projects. She was
17 co-founder of numerous organizations including the Institute for the Study and Practice of
18 Nonviolence, Providence CityArts, Taming Asthma, The Good Friday Walk for Hunger and
19 Homelessness, AIDS Care Ocean State, and Open Doors. In addition, she helped establish, run,
20 guide and champion a host of other organizations including the Community Boating Center, the

1 Sophia Academy, the Family Life Advocacy Center, Witness for Peace, the Southside
2 Community Land Trust and the Providence Community Library. She also served on many local
3 committees and was the Chair of the Providence Human Relations Commission; and

4 WHEREAS, An inspiration to all, Sr. Ann had been honored with a plethora of awards
5 and titles including being inducted into the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Hall of Fame in
6 2011, and receiving the Eagle Award from the Institute for Labor Studies and Research, to name
7 just a few; and

8 WHEREAS, Sr. Ann was a consummate humanitarian who opened eyes and hearts and
9 left our state and this world a far better place because of her life's endeavors. She enriched the
10 lives of all who knew her and she will be dearly missed; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
12 hereby expresses our deepest sympathies on the passing of Sr. Ann C. Keefe; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
14 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Eileen Keefe Swopes, James Thomas Keefe,
15 Mary Keefe Blanchet, Michael Keefe, John Keefe, Brian Keefe, Katherine Keefe, and Angela
16 Leslie-Keefe.

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