

2019 -- H 5968

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LC002343  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING AND THANKING GERALD CHERTAVIAN, FOUNDER AND CEO OF YEAR UP, INC., FOR TRAINING AND MENTORING THOUSANDS OF YOUNG ADULTS AND GUIDING THEM TOWARDS SUCCESSFUL CAREERS AND PROSPEROUS FUTURES

Introduced By: Representatives Abney, Shekarchi, Kennedy, and Maldonado

Date Introduced: April 09, 2019

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Gerald Chertavian, a graduate of Bowdoin College and the Harvard  
2 Business School, has long been interested in mentoring young people, helping them to gain the  
3 training they need to be productive citizens and launch successful careers with America’s top  
4 companies; and

5           WHEREAS, More than thirty years ago, as a Big Brother volunteer in New York City,  
6 Mr. Chertavian saw first-hand how numerous talented, motivated, and bright individuals  
7 struggled to succeed because they lacked access to important opportunities due to their race, lack  
8 of income and/or the zip code within which they lived; and

9           WHEREAS, Mr. Chertavian often thought about what he called the “Opportunity  
10 Divide” that existed in the United States and wrote about it in his application to the Harvard  
11 Business School. After graduating from Harvard and starting and selling his successful software  
12 company in 1999, he decided to do something about it and used the proceeds of the sale to launch  
13 Year Up in Boston in 2000; and

14           WHEREAS, Year Up is a nonprofit organization with a mission of training young adults  
15 for the jobs of today and the future and connecting them with successful companies in need of  
16 pre-trained, motivated and diverse adults. Year Up currently serves more than 4,700 young  
17 people each year in 25 cities throughout the United States, including more than 160 young adults  
18 in Providence; and

19           WHEREAS, Since its inception, Year Up has worked with more than 24,000 young

1 adults, providing them with free technical and profession skills training, professional internships,  
2 college level courses, financial assistance and stipends, and mentoring. Nationally, 90 percent of  
3 Year Up graduates are either employed or attending college within four months of completing the  
4 program, and the average starting salary of those in the workforce is \$40,000 annually; and

5 WHEREAS, Year Up came to Providence in 2005, the first new site after its initial  
6 launch in Boston, and in July of 2018, Year Up celebrated its 1,000th graduate. Year Up Rhode  
7 Island and its talented Executive Director, Ms. Cathy Doyle, work with important companies like  
8 Amica, Lifespan, Citizens Bank, CVS Health, Fidelity and Hasbro to ensure that its curriculum  
9 and training methods are aligned with current local labor market needs; and

10 WHEREAS, Year Up Rhode Island alumni, according to conservative estimates, have  
11 contributed 125 million dollars in wages to the Rhode Island economy, working for more than  
12 seventy employers in various information technology and business operations careers. Year Up  
13 graduates have achieved over 95 percent rates of employment outcomes, leading the nation in that  
14 measurement; and

15 WHEREAS, Year Up, under the esteemed guidance, direction and leadership provided by  
16 Mr. Chertavian, has an annual operating budget of 170 million dollars and is one of the fastest  
17 growing nonprofits in the United States. Year Up has been recognized by Fast Company and The  
18 Monitor Group as being of the nation's top 25 organizations using business excellence to  
19 engineer social change, and has been recognized by the NonProfit Times as being one of the top  
20 50 nonprofits for which to work; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Chertavian has been a Big Brother volunteer since 1985, and was  
22 recognized as being one of New York State's top Big Brothers. In 2008, he was appointed by  
23 then-Governor Deval Patrick to serve on the Massachusetts State Board of Elementary and  
24 Secondary Education. In 2013, he was appointed by Governor Patrick to serve as Chairman of the  
25 Roxbury Community College Board of Trustees and was reappointed to that position by current  
26 Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker in 2016; now, therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
28 Providence Plantations hereby honors and thanks Gerald Chertavian, the founder and CEO of  
29 Year Up, for training and mentoring thousands of young adults and guiding them towards  
30 successful careers and prosperous futures; and be it further

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1           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
2 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Gerald Chertavian, Founder and CEO of  
3 Year Up.

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