

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 33

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblyman IMPREVEDUTO

- 1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** expressing disapproval of the United States
2 Congress for eliminating funding for the proposed footbridge connecting
3 Liberty State Park in Jersey City, New Jersey, to Ellis Island, New York,
4 and praising Senator Frank Lautenberg and Congressman Robert
5 Menendez of the New Jersey congressional delegation for supporting the
6 funding for the bridge.
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- 8 **WHEREAS**, Four out of every 10 Americans can trace their heritage through
9 Ellis Island, New York, where under the shadow of the Statute of Liberty
10 their parents, grandparents and great grandparents endured the final
11 challenges of their journeys and the first challenges of the New World; and
12 **WHEREAS**, For this nation of immigrants, Ellis Island today, even in its partially
13 restored condition, is a national historical monument to the constant struggle
14 of self-improvement that has become the essence of the American Dream;
15 and
16 **WHEREAS**, The buildings on Ellis Island and the exhibits housed in them are a
17 tangible inspiring reminder of the power of dreams and the importance of
18 family and roots in a time when cynicism threatens the very fabric of the
19 nation; and
20 **WHEREAS**, While immigrants once struggled to save \$25 to come to America,
21 most families wishing to visit Ellis Island today must pay close to that
22 amount, at a cost of \$6.50 per adult and \$4.25 per child, to take the ferry
23 to Ellis Island; and
24 **WHEREAS**, Construction of a permanent footbridge linking Liberty State Park
25 and Ellis Island would make Ellis Island affordable and accessible to
26 everyone and, according to the completed environmental impact study of
27 the proposed footbridge project, would significantly boost visitor rates by
28 more than 100,000 visitors and help save the 28 buildings yet to be
29 restored, one of which is the former hospital complex on the island's
30 southern half; and
31 **WHEREAS**, While efforts by the United States Congress to cut the deficit by
32 limiting ongoing spending on programs are important to balance the federal
33 budget, but the cost of a permanent footbridge, \$15 million, would be a

1 relatively small, one-time expense that would make this national treasure
2 accessible to everyone at little cost; and

3 **WHEREAS**, The United States Congress has chosen to cut out federal funding
4 for the proposed footbridge, thereby cutting off the likelihood of any
5 permanent footbridge being constructed to Ellis Island; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Senator Frank Lautenberg and Congressman Robert Menendez
7 have been vocal opponents to eliminating this funding, criticizing in the press
8 and on the floor of the United States Congress the failure of vision and
9 partisanship that has driven the elimination of this funding; now, therefore,
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11 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

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13 1. This house disapproves of the United States Congress for eliminating
14 funding for the proposed footbridge connecting Liberty State Park in Jersey
15 City, New Jersey to Ellis Island, New York, and praises Senator Frank
16 Lautenberg and Congressman Robert Menendez of the New Jersey
17 congressional delegation for supporting the federal funding for the bridge.
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19 2. Copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General
20 Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the
21 Governor of the State, the President and Vice President of the United States,
22 the Speaker of the House of Representatives and every member of Congress
23 elected from this State.
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STATEMENT

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28 This resolution expresses disapproval of the United States Congress for
29 eliminating funding for the proposed footbridge connecting Liberty State Park
30 in Jersey City, New Jersey, to Ellis Island, New York, and praises for Senator
31 Frank Lautenberg and Congressman Robert Menendez of the New Jersey
32 congressional delegation for supporting the funding for the bridge.
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38 Disapproves of the United States Congress eliminating funding for the
39 footbridge to Ellis Island and praises Senator Lautenberg and Congressman
Menendez for supporting funding the bridge.