

NO. R-93. HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION HONORING  
DEBORAH LISI-BAKER FOR HER LEADERSHIP ROLE AS AN  
ADVOCATE FOR DISABLED AND DEAF VERMONTERS.

(H.C.R.62)

Offered by: Representatives Minter of Waterbury, Andrews of Rutland City, Aswad of Burlington, Bissonnette of Winooski, Botzow of Pownal, Donahue of Northfield, Evans of Essex, Fisher of Lincoln, Frank of Underhill, French of Shrewsbury, French of Randolph, Haas of Rochester, Head of South Burlington, Heath of Westford, Hooper of Montpelier, Jerman of Essex, Johnson of South Hero, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Lenex of Shelburne, Manwaring of Wilmington, Martin of Springfield, Martin of Wolcott, McDonald of Berlin, McFaun of Barre Town, Milkey of Brattleboro, Miller of Shaftsbury, Mook of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Brien of Richmond, O'Donnell of Vernon, Orr of Charlotte, Pugh of South Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Shand of Weathersfield, Spengler of Colchester, Stevens of Waterbury, Stevens of Shoreham, Sweaney of Windsor, Taylor of Barre City, Till of Jericho, Toll of Danville, Townsend of Randolph, Webb of Shelburne, Wilson of Manchester and Wizowaty of Burlington

Whereas, Deborah Lisi-Baker has devoted her professional and personal life fighting for the rights of persons with disabilities and the deaf, and

Whereas, she prepared for her career as an advocate as an education major at Johnson State College, from which she graduated with high honors and high distinction, and studied mediation at Woodbury College, facilitative leadership and human rights, and evaluation in nongovernmental organizations through the Human Rights Education Associates and the Interaction Institute for Social Change, and

Whereas, her career has been based at the Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) in Montpelier, with which she has been professionally associated since its creation 30 years ago as a statewide nonprofit advocacy organization for the disabled and deaf, and

Whereas, for the last decade, Deborah-Lisi-Baker has served as the extremely capable and highly respected VCIL executive director, and

Whereas, her managerial skills enabled VCIL to eliminate a financial deficit and considerably broaden the scope of its critical support services, and

Whereas, of all her many accomplishments at VCIL, Deborah Lisi-Baker is especially proud of her contribution to the growth in the number of Vermonters residing in nursing homes who have been able to return to their own homes and communities, and

Whereas, she has published many informational guides and educational materials, both for her service clientele and the professionals who offer them support services, and

Whereas, Deborah Lisi Baker's writing and journalistic talents are most widely displayed in her role as editor of the *Independent*, a statewide newspaper for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and their family members, and

Whereas, she serves on the board of many organizations that complement the work of VCIL, and she is the proud founder of the Vermont ADA Coalition, and

Whereas, Deborah Lisi-Baker is a creative, effective, and passionate advocate for the disabled and deaf, and she uses her superb communications skills to enable these Vermonters to live with greater dignity and hope, and

Whereas, after a decade of innovative leadership, Deborah Lisi-Baker is retiring as VCIL's executive director, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Deborah Lisi-Baker for her leadership role as an advocate for disabled and deaf Vermonters, and be it further

Resolved: That the secretary of state be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Deborah Lisi-Baker and to the Vermont Center for Independent Living in Montpelier.