

**No. R-124. House concurrent resolution honoring the Vermont Children's Aid Society on its 90th anniversary and its retiring executive director Steve Habib.**

(H.C.R.92)

Offered by: Representatives Lorber of Burlington, Andrews of Rutland City, Aswad of Burlington, Atkins of Winooski, Audette of South Burlington, Bissonnette of Winooski, Bohi of Hartford, Botzow of Pownal, Branagan of Georgia, Bray of New Haven, Browning of Arlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Cheney of Norwich, Clark of Vergennes, Clerkin of Hartford, Conquest of Newbury, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Corcoran of Bennington, Courcelle of Rutland City, Crawford of Burke, Davis of Washington, Deen of Westminster, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donovan of Burlington, Evans of Essex, Fisher of Lincoln, Frank of Underhill, French of Shrewsbury, French of Randolph, Geier of South Burlington, Gilbert of Fairfax, Grad of Moretown, Haas of Rochester, Heath of Westford, Howrigan of Fairfield, Hube of Londonderry, Jerman of Essex, Jewett of Ripton, Johnson of South Hero, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Klein of East Montpelier, Komline of Dorset, Krawczyk of Bennington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Larson of Burlington, Leriche of Hardwick, Malcolm of Pawlet, Manwaring of Wilmington, Marek of Newfane, McCullough of Williston, Minter of Waterbury, Mitchell of Barnard, Morley of Barton, Mrowicki of Putney, Myers of Essex, Nease of Johnson, Nuovo of Middlebury, Partridge of Windham, Peaslee of Guildhall, Pellett of Chester, Poirier of Barre City, Potter of Clarendon, Pugh of South Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Smith of Mendon, Spengler of Colchester,

Stevens of Waterbury, Taylor of Barre City, Till of Jericho, Toll of Danville, Townsend of Randolph, Turner of Milton, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Webb of Shelburne, Weston of Burlington, Wilson of Manchester, Wizowaty of Burlington, Wright of Burlington, Young of St. Albans City, Zenie of Colchester and Zuckerman of Burlington

Whereas, for 90 years, the Vermont Children’s Aid Society has provided adoption opportunities for children who would not otherwise have a permanent and loving home, and

Whereas, the flu pandemic of 1918–1919 orphaned thousands of children in the United States, including many Vermont youngsters, and

Whereas, in response to this emergency situation, a group of Vermonters consisting primarily of social workers who had firsthand knowledge of the need to find stable and nurturing homes for the Vermont children who the flu pandemic had orphaned met at the Hotel Vermont in Burlington on April 2, 1919 and established the Vermont Children’s Aid Society, and

Whereas, these caring Vermonters formed this organization for the stated purpose “of engaging in social services activities of prevention, relief, and remedy designed to safeguard the welfare of minors,” and

Whereas, for much of the history of the Vermont Children’s Aid Society, it functioned primarily as an adoption agency that provided lifelong adoption services for birth parents, adoptive parents, and adoptive children, and

Whereas, more recently, in order to meet contemporary needs of young people, the Vermont Children's Aid Society has expanded its services to include Camp ForMe, designed for adopted children and teenagers, a child and family counseling service, and the Kids-A-Part program for families with an incarcerated parent, and

Whereas, during 2008, the Vermont Children's Aid Society provided invaluable family support services to nearly 2,000 young people, their families, and caregivers, and

Whereas, the Vermont Children's Aid Society's mission of creating new and loving families and providing emotional comfort and support to thousands of children and teenagers remains an ongoing one, and

Whereas, the organization's 90th anniversary is an especially opportune time to honor its many accomplishments as its much-respected executive director Steve Habif will retire shortly, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the Vermont Children's Aid Society on its 90th anniversary and its retiring executive director Steve Habif, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Children's Aid Society and to Steve Habif.