

No. R-404. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Lund Family Center in Burlington on its 120th anniversary.

(H.C.R.285)

Offered by: Representatives Donovan of Burlington, Ainsworth of Royalton, Ancel of Calais, Aswad of Burlington, Bissonnette of Winooski, Botzow of Pownal, Branagan of Georgia, Browning of Arlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Canfield of Fair Haven, Clarkson of Woodstock, Clerkin of Hartford, Condon of Colchester, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Davis of Washington, Edwards of Brattleboro, Emmons of Springfield, Evans of Essex, Fisher of Lincoln, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Geier of South Burlington, Greshin of Warren, Haas of Rochester, Head of South Burlington, Hooper of Montpelier, Howard of Rutland City, Jerman of Essex, Johnson of South Hero, Johnson of Canaan, Keenan of St. Albans City, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Klein of East Montpelier, Lanpher of Vergennes, Larson of Burlington, Lenes of Shelburne, Leriche of Hardwick, Lippert of Hinesburg, Lorber of Burlington, Maier of Middlebury, Malcolm of Pawlet, Masland of Thetford, McCullough of Williston, Milkey of Brattleboro, Myers of Essex, Nease of Johnson, O'Brien of Richmond, Obuchowski of Rockingham, O'Donnell of Vernon, Partridge of Windham, Peltz of Woodbury, Poirier of Barre City, Pugh of South Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Reis of St. Johnsbury, Smith of Mendon, Spengler of Colchester, Stevens of Shoreham, Sweaney of Windsor, Taylor of Barre City, Till of Jericho, 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, in the fall of 1890, ten Women's Christian Temperance Union members from around the state of Vermont met in Burlington to develop an assistance plan for unwed pregnant or parenting women, and

Whereas, based on this work, the general assembly enacted Act No.141 of the laws of 1890, a charter establishing the "Home for Friendless Women," that the governor signed on November 4 of that year, and

Whereas, on April 12, 1893, the "Home for Friendless Women" opened in Burlington, and, in 1926, it was renamed the "Elizabeth Lund Home" honoring Burlington resident Dr. William B. Lund who donated a generous financial gift

in memory of his wife, Elizabeth, who was a tireless supporter of the home, and

Whereas, in 1966, in need of a larger and modern facility, the Lund Home conducted a successful capital campaign directed by Norwich University President Ernest Harmon, and

Whereas, in 1969, the new building opened and was expanded in 1987, and again in 2007, with increasingly broadening and sophisticated family support services to serve a growing number of statewide clients, and

Whereas, in 1987, in recognition of the organization's designation as one of Vermont's first parent-child centers and of other family support services being offered, it was renamed and incorporated as the "Lund Family Center," and

Whereas, the Lund Family Center's contemporary mission is "to help children thrive by serving families with children; pregnant or parenting teens and young adults," and the center regularly serves more than 4,000 Vermonters statewide, and

Whereas, in 2000, the Lund Family Center partnered with Burlington Housing Authority, the Sisters of Mercy, Housing Vermont, the Chittenden County Continuum of Care, and Cathedral Square Corporation to open Independence Place, a six-unit transitional housing facility for clients to develop independent living skills, and

Whereas, the Lund Family Center is Vermont's only residential treatment program in which pregnant or parenting young women live with their children

while receiving substance abuse or mental illness treatment or both, and it is the largest and oldest private nonprofit adoption agency, having facilitated over 8,600 adoptions since 1890, and

Whereas, in recent years, the Lund Family Center was awarded three competitive U.S. government grants to enhance substance abuse services, expand rural recruitment of foster and adoptive families, and increase collaboration between the child welfare and substance abuse systems, and

Whereas, the Lund Family Center has earned a substantial national reputation and won many prestigious national awards, including: the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 2003 Adoption Excellence Award, the March of Dimes 2003 Lifetime Achievement Award, and the 2002 and 2009 Congressional Angel in Adoption Awards, and

Whereas, during its 120 years of service, the Lund Family Center has earned a widely acknowledged statewide and national reputation for excellence, innovation, and success, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Lund Family Center on its 120th anniversary of service to Vermont's children and families, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Lund Family Center in Burlington.