

**No. R-70. Senate concurrent resolution commemorating the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and the Vermont Center for Independent Living's celebration of this landmark legislation.**

(S.C.R.8)

By Senators Doyle, Cummings and Pollina,

By Representatives Hooper and Kitzmiller of Montpelier,

*Whereas*, Americans who, because of a mental or physical disability, require additional assistance to participate fully in societal activities, have long faced difficult challenges, and

*Whereas*, historically, in the United States, there were no legal requirements that public accommodations and services be made accessible to the disabled to the greatest extent possible, and

*Whereas*, government and commercial buildings and multifamily housing units that were not accessible to the physically disabled were common, and

*Whereas*, students in classrooms, litigants in courts, and other persons engaged in other government-funded activities were not entitled to support services such as sign language interpretation or documents in Braille, and

*Whereas*, Congress addressed this fundamental inequity when it enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that President George H.W. Bush signed into law on July 26, 1990, and which became Public Law 101-336, and

*Whereas*, this historic federal legislation prompted the states to enact their own complementary laws, and Vermont's ADA was enacted as Act 243 of 1992, and

*Whereas*, in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of enactment of the federal ADA, on Thursday, July 22, the Vermont Center for Independent Living in Montpelier held a special celebratory event under a big tent located on the State House lawn, and a community dance followed later that afternoon, and

*Whereas*, the enactment of the federal ADA marked an historic occasion in the long effort and struggle of disabled Americans to be treated as truly first-class citizens, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly commemorates the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and the Vermont Center for Independent Living's celebration of this landmark legislation, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Center for Independent Living in Montpelier.