

**No. R-164. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Medicare hospice program.**

(H.C.R.117)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Offered by: All Members of the Senate

Whereas, numerous Vermonters and their families have received compassionate and dignified end-of-life care offered during the final days or weeks of life, and

Whereas, hospice care addresses physical comfort of a patient and offers emotional support for both the terminally ill and their families, and

Whereas, in 1980, Medicare, the federal government's health insurance program for persons age 65 and older, sought proposals to develop and implement 26 demonstration sites throughout the United States, and

Whereas, the leadership of Orleans Essex VNA & Hospice was interested in providing hospice care in the Northeast Kingdom but recognized that no Vermont health care organization was sufficiently large enough to be considered for inclusion in the Health Care Finance Administration's (now the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) hospice demonstration project, and

Whereas, the Orleans Essex VNA & Hospice challenged the Visiting Nurse Association of Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties, Caledonia Home Health and Hospice, Lamoille Home Health and Hospice, and the Franklin County Home Health Agency to combine their resources and submit their proposal

which was accepted as a unified applicant to provide care for the northern tier of Vermont through the federal study, and

Whereas, the success of the hospice demonstration project three decades ago served as the foundation and model for development of hospice care in the United States which now ensures universal access to quality end-of-life care throughout Vermont, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 30th anniversary of the beginning of hospice care in northern Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each of the health care organizations named in this resolution.