

No. R-196. Senate concurrent resolution honoring Dr. Cyrus Jordan and Helen Riehle for their exemplary contributions to the improvement of high-quality health care in Vermont.

(S.C.R.16)

By Senators Lyons, Ashe, Ayer, Baruth, Benning, Brock, Campbell, Carris, Cummings, Doyle, Flory, Fox, Galbraith, Giard, Hartwell, Illuzzi, Kitchel, Kittell, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Miller, Mullin, Nitka, Pollina, Sears, Snelling, Starr, Westman and White,

Whereas, in 1988, the Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care (VPQHC) was incorporated as a nonprofit corporation to “improve health care quality in Vermont by studying the system and making it work better,” and

Whereas, in its early years, VPQHC assisted hospitals both generally and in specific clinical areas including obstetrics and gynecology, cardiology, orthopedics, and mental health, and

Whereas, in accordance with 18 V.S.A. § 9416, since 1996 the Vermont Department of Banking, Insurance, Securities, and Health Care Administration annually has contracted with VPQHC to “implement and maintain a statewide quality assurance system to evaluate and improve the quality of health care services” in Vermont, and

Whereas, two of the individuals who were largely responsible for the success of VPQHC were its former medical director, Dr. Cyrus Jordan, and executive director, Helen Riehle, and

Whereas, for 18 years, Dr. Cyrus Jordan contributed his medical expertise to the work of the VPQHC, assuring that the organization observed the highest

professional and technical standards in all of its consulting, evaluation, and reporting activities, and

Whereas, during her decade as the executive director of the VPQHC, Helen Riehle carefully managed and oversaw all administrative aspects of the organization and its programs, and

Whereas, under their joint leadership, VPQHC served a major leadership role in developing the diabetes collaboratives and the pilot sites for the Blueprint for Health that enabled the Blueprint to evolve into a cornerstone of Vermont's health care reform initiatives, and

Whereas, they directed VPQHC's publication of an annual Quality Report on Vermont health care that the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has used as a model for its own National Health Care Quality Report, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Dr. Cyrus Jordan and Helen Riehle for their contributions to the improvement of health care in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Dr. Cyrus Jordan, to Helen Riehle, and to the Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care.