

No. R-152. House concurrent resolution designating April 26 as Long-Term Care Ombudsman Day in Vermont.

(H.C.R.112)

Offered by: Representatives Pugh of South Burlington, Batchelor of Derby, Burditt of West Rutland, Donahue of Northfield, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Haas of Rochester, Krowinski of Burlington, McFaun of Barre Town, Morrissey of Bennington, and Trieber of Rockingham

Whereas, the Vermont Long-Term Care Ombudsman Project is hosting the annual meeting of the National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs, and

Whereas, state long-term care ombudsmen from around the country have traveled to Vermont for several days of substantive presentations and discussions about long term care, and

Whereas, these health care professionals protect the health, safety, welfare, and rights of residents of long-term care facilities, and in some states, including Vermont, they also protect the health, safety, welfare, and rights of individuals who receive long-term care services in community settings, and

Whereas, national data from 2011 indicate that ombudsmen responded to 204,044 complaints, opened 134,775 new cases, provided 289,668 consultations to individuals and 114,033 consultations to long-term care facility managers and staff, conducted 5,144 training sessions in facilities, and participated in 20,958 resident council and 3,321 family council meetings, and

Whereas, ombudsmen provide a range of services including solving problems ranging from the routine to more complicated issues related to evictions and involuntary transfers, and

Whereas, in addition to resolving individual problems, ombudsmen bring about changes at the local, state, and national levels that improve quality of care and quality of life for people who receive long-term care services, and

Whereas, the National Institute of Medicine found that long-term care ombudsman programs can claim to have improved the long-term care system nationwide, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 26 as Long-Term Care Ombudsman Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Joe Rodrigues, President of the National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs, and to Kathy Greenlee, Administrator of the Administration for Community Living and Assistant Secretary for Aging.