

No. R-175. House concurrent resolution designating April 25, 2013 as Victims' Awareness Day.

(H.C.R.123)

Offered by: Representatives Fay of St. Johnsbury, Bartholomew of Hartland, Burke of Brattleboro, Christie of Hartford, Clarkson of Woodstock, Cole of Burlington, Conquest of Newbury, Goodwin of Weston, Grad of Moretown, Heath of Westford, Hooper of Montpelier, Klein of East Montpelier, Krebs of South Hero, Krowinski of Burlington, Marek of Newfane, Masland of Thetford, McCarthy of St. Albans City, Michelsen of Hardwick, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Partridge of Windham, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Ram of Burlington, South of St. Johnsbury, Stevens of Shoreham, Strong of Albany, Toleno of Brattleboro, Townsend of South Burlington, Vowinkel of Hartford, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Weed of Enosburgh, Wizowaty of Burlington, and Zagar of Barnard

Whereas, advocates at the 14 member programs of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence work tirelessly around the clock, every day of the year, to support survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and to prevent violence in our communities, and

Whereas, in 2012, these advocates served more than 10,000 survivors from every corner of Vermont, and

Whereas, the crimes of domestic violence and sexual assault tear at the very fabric of our communities, and it is the role of advocates to hear these stories, witness pain and violence over and over again, and hold onto hope for a different future for the individual survivors they support and for our society as a whole, and

Whereas, domestic violence and sexual assault are not easy to talk about, although they affect millions of women, children, and men every year, and

Whereas, because of the stigma and shame, these issues often remain hidden in our society, and

Whereas, the national NO MORE campaign seeks to bring domestic violence and sexual assault into the national spotlight to generate more attention, resources, and action to prevent them, and

Whereas, NO MORE aims to empower bystanders of domestic violence and sexual assault in every community to break their silence around these issues and get involved, and

Whereas, no one individual can do everything required to end domestic violence and sexual assault, but we can all do something, and, working together, we can create communities where domestic and sexual violence are not tolerated, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly celebrates and honors the victim advocates working ceaselessly across Vermont to support survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and to end violence, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly recognizes the efforts of the NO MORE campaign to halt domestic and sexual violence around the world, and designates April 25 as Vermont Victims' Awareness Day, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.