

**No. R-385. House concurrent resolution honoring cancer survivors and their caregivers.**

(H.C.R.280)

Offered by: Representatives Keenan of St. Albans City, Jewett of Ripton, Kilmartin of Newport City, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Lippert of Hinesburg, and Myers of Essex

Whereas, April is a time to remember those lost to cancer and celebrate those who have survived, and

Whereas, cancer not only affects survivors, but also their caregivers, family members, and close friends, and

Whereas, every year since 1938, the President of the United States has proclaimed April as Cancer Control Month to highlight advances against cancer and rededicate the nation to fighting this disease, and

Whereas, in his 2013 Presidential Proclamation designating April as Cancer Control Month, President Obama stated “Together, our Nation is moving forward in the fight against cancer. As we recommit to improving prevention, detection, and treatment, let us honor the memory of the courageous men and women we have lost to the disease,” and

Whereas, the Vermont Department of Health’s most recent statistics indicate that approximately 32,000 Vermonters, at some point in their lives, have been diagnosed with cancer, and

Whereas, the American Cancer Society works tirelessly to save lives from cancer by helping people stay well and get well, and

Whereas, recent medical breakthroughs, in combination with an increased public awareness of steps that can be taken to reduce an individual’s risk of developing cancer and the importance of early detection, have made cancer more likely to be controllable and curable, and

Whereas, according to the American Cancer Society, research shows that behavior and lifestyle changes, such as quitting tobacco, eating healthier, drinking less alcohol, exercising regularly, using sun protection, and completing necessary cancer screenings, can significantly reduce the risk of being diagnosed with cancer, and

Whereas, despite Vermont’s high cancer screening rates, cancer remains the State’s leading cause of death, and

Whereas, for survivors and caregivers, a cancer diagnosis is life changing, and their experiences can serve as inspiration for all Vermonters, and

Whereas, April 2014 is recognized nationally as Cancer Control Month and serves as an excellent opportunity to honor cancer survivors and their caregivers and their role in educating the public about this dreaded but increasingly controllable disease, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors cancer survivors and their caregivers and their special role as cancer educators, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont office of the American Cancer Society.