

No. R-466. House concurrent resolution celebrating the 25th anniversary of Outright Vermont.

(H.C.R.350)

Offered by: Representatives Lippert of Hinesburg, Botzow of Pownal, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Buxton of Tunbridge, Campion of Bennington, Christie of Hartford, Cole of Burlington, Connor of Fairfield, Conquest of Newbury, Cross of Winooski, Dakin of Chester, Davis of Washington, Deen of Westminster, Donovan of Burlington, Ellis of Waterbury, Emmons of Springfield, Evans of Essex, Fay of St. Johnsbury, Fisher of Lincoln, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Gallivan of Chittenden, Grad of Moretown, Haas of Rochester, Head of South Burlington, Hooper of Montpelier, Jerman of Essex, Jewett of Ripton, Keenan of St. Albans City, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Krowinski of Burlington, Kupersmith of South Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lenex of Shelburne, Macaig of Williston, Malcolm of Pawlet, Marek of Newfane, Martin of Springfield, Masland of Thetford, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McCullough of Williston, Mook of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Brien of Richmond, Partridge of Windham, Pearson of Burlington, Peltz of Woodbury, Poirier of Barre City, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Ralston of Middlebury, Ram of Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Ryerson of Randolph, Sharpe of Bristol, Spengler of Colchester, Stevens of Waterbury, Sweaney of Windsor, Till of Jericho, Toleno of Brattleboro, Townsend of South Burlington, Trieber of Rockingham, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Webb of Shelburne, Weed of Enosburgh, Wizowaty of Burlington, Woodward of Johnson, Wright of Burlington, Yantachka of Charlotte, Young of Glover, and Zagar of Barnard

Whereas, in 1988, a national survey reported that gay and lesbian youths were subject to higher rates of depression and suicide, and

Whereas, in response to this report, in 1989, a group of Vermont community activists formed Outright Vermont as a once-a-week support group that has evolved into a “lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQQ) ‘queer’ youth center and statewide advocacy organization,” and

Whereas, the word queer, originally a derisive term, is now one of empowerment and unification for the larger LGBTQQ (queer) community, and

Whereas, Outright Vermont’s mission is to “build safe, healthy, and supportive environments for queer youth,” and

Whereas, the organizing strategy for Outright Vermont is based on the concept of youth empowerment that will effectuate social change, and

Whereas, educational and outreach programs presented at schools, colleges, and community organizations are aimed at preventing harassment and supporting queer youth, and

Whereas, annually, Outright Vermont sponsors programs for queer and allied youth, including a statewide summit; Camp Outright, a summer residential camp; and the annual Queer Youth Awards, and

Whereas, Outright Vermont envisions a world where “all young people’s lives are celebrated” and “bullying, taunting, harassment, and other forms of oppression are not tolerated,” and

Whereas, 2014 marks 25 years that Outright Vermont has been nurturing and supporting the queer youth community in Vermont, and on April 11, 2014, a festive Silver Celebration was held in Essex Junction, and

Whereas, today, April 30, 2014, Outright Vermont is sponsoring Queer Youth Leadership Day at the State House that is intended to sharpen advocacy skills and offer an opportunity for queer youth to express their views and concerns to legislators, the Governor, and the Vermont Human Rights Commission, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly celebrates the 25th anniversary of Outright Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Outright Vermont.