

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 380

House concurrent resolution designating May 7, 2014 as Poverty Awareness Day in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Stuart of Brattleboro, Bissonnette of Winooski, Botzow of Pownal, Brennan of Colchester, Burke of Brattleboro, Campion of Bennington, Carr of Brandon, Christie of Hartford, Connor of Fairfield, Conquest of Newbury, Cross of Winooski, Cupoli of Rutland City, Emmons of Springfield, Evans of Essex, Fay of St. Johnsbury, Fisher of Lincoln, Grad of Moretown, Head of South Burlington, Keenan of St. Albans City, Lanpher of Vergennes, Larocque of Barnet, Lippert of Hinesburg, Macaig of Williston, Manwaring of Wilmington, Martin of Wolcott, Masland of Thetford, McCormack of Burlington, McCullough of Williston, Miller of Shaftsbury, Moran of Wardsboro, O'Brien of Richmond, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Pearson of Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Scheuermann of Stowe, Shaw of Derby, South of St. Johnsbury, Stevens of Waterbury, Toll of Danville, Trieber of Rockingham, Vowinkel of Hartford, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Webb of Shelburne, Weed of Enosburgh, Wizowaty of Burlington, Woodward of Johnson, and Wright of Burlington

Offered by: Senators Ayer, Baruth, Doyle, French, Hartwell, Lyons, McAllister, McCormack, Pollina, Rodgers, Sirotkin, White, and Zuckerman

Whereas, the U.S. Census Bureau uses family size and income thresholds to determine who is in poverty, and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, up to 70,000 Vermonters (11.6 percent) are living in poverty, and

Whereas, according to the website Spotlight on Society and Opportunity, 12.7 percent of Vermonters experience food insecurity, and

Whereas, this same website also reported 5.3 percent of the State's population as living in extreme poverty and 1.16 percent as homeless, and

Whereas, issues of poverty have been placed prominently on the public agenda since the start of this year, and

Whereas, in January, the Snelling Center for Government hosted an all-day event in Montpelier focused on poverty, and

Whereas, at the start of the 2014 legislative session, the Governor proposed \$2.5 million in new State funds to assist in the alleviation of poverty, and

Whereas, two legislative measures, H.699, relating to limiting the funds eligible participants must pay to obtain temporary housing, and H.790, revising Reach Up eligibility requirements, are proceeding toward possible enactment, and

Whereas, on February 12, 2014, the *Brattleboro Reformer* published an editorial on the growing problem of homelessness in Vermont, and

Whereas, as cited in the editorial, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reported that from 2008 to 2013 the homeless population in Vermont rose 30 percent, one of the top five increases nationwide, and

Whereas, on April 14, 2014, the *Burlington Free Press* published a lengthy article highlighting that the extent of poverty in the State is greater than many might imagine, and

Whereas, it is important to maintain a constant focus on poverty in Vermont and the need to address this societal problem, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates May 7, 2014 as Poverty Awareness Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Peter Shumlin, the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the Vermont Business Roundtable, and Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility.