
(H.C.R.76)


Whereas, nearly one in five Vermonter today is living with a disability, and

Whereas, important anniversaries of several federal laws addressing the rights of persons with disabilities are being celebrated this year, including the 40th anniversary of the Developmentally Disabled Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (Pub.L. 94-103), which created new legal protections and safeguards for persons with developmental disabilities; the 45th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Education of the Handicapped Act) (IDEA) (Pub.L. 91-230), which entitles each student with a disability to a free appropriate public education to meet his or her unique needs; and the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), which created new legal protections in employment, the delivery of public services, public transportation, public accommodations, and telecommunications for persons with disabilities, and

Whereas, on the judicial front, 2015 is the 16th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Olmstead v. Zimring, 527 U.S. 581 (1999), upholding the right of persons with disabilities to live in the community rather than in an institution, and

Whereas, State and local implementation of these laws and the U.S. Supreme Court decision have expanded opportunities for many Vermonter with disabilities as these legal milestones lowered barriers to equal access, and

Whereas, the advocacy efforts of the Vermont Coalition for Disabilities have changed perceptions of what is possible for people with disabilities, and

Whereas, the General Assembly recognizes that societal barriers still exist, and there are still challenges to overcome before people with disabilities realize the full promise of the ADA and other pieces of landmark legislation, now therefore be it
Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes important legal milestones in the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and designates March 18, 2015 as Disability Awareness Day at the State House, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights.