

No. R-109. House concurrent resolution recognizing important legal milestones in the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and designating March 18, 2015 as Disability Awareness Day at the State House.

(H.C.R.76)

Offered by: Representatives Pugh of South Burlington, Ancel of Calais, Bancroft of Westford, Baser of Bristol, Berry of Manchester, Bissonnette of Winooski, Botzow of Pownal, Branagan of Georgia, Brennan of Colchester, Briglin of Thetford, Browning of Arlington, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Buxton of Tunbridge, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christie of Hartford, Condon of Colchester, Connor of Fairfield, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Cupoli of Rutland City, Dakin of Chester, Davis of Washington, Deen of Westminster, Donahue of Northfield, Fiske of Enosburgh, French of Randolph, Greshin of Warren, Haas of Rochester, Hooper of Montpelier, Jewett of Ripton, Keenan of St. Albans City, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Klein of East Montpelier, Komline of Dorset, Krowinski of Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lenes of Shelburne, Lippert of Hinesburg, Long of Newfane, Macaig of Williston, Manwaring of Wilmington, Marcotte of Coventry, Masland of Thetford, McCormack of Burlington, McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, Mrowicki of Putney, Myers of Essex, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Partridge of Windham, Potter of Clarendon, Rachelson of Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Sharpe of Bristol, Shaw of Pittsford, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sibia of Dover, Stuart of Brattleboro, Trieber of Rockingham, Troiano of Stannard, Webb of Shelburne, Woodward of Johnson, and Young of Glover

Whereas, nearly one in five Vermonters 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 Vermonters 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.