

No. R-483. House concurrent resolution congratulating Prevent Child Abuse Vermont on its 40th anniversary and recognizing its essential contribution to the improvement of family life in Vermont.

(H.C.R.403)

Offered by: Representative Dame of Essex

Whereas, in 1976, Helen Parker, a Head Start home visitor, and Laura Smith, a medical social worker at Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital, met with a small group of parents seeking to improve parent-child relationships, and

Whereas, this initial conversation resulted in the formation of Parents Anonymous of Vermont, which since 1994 has been known as Prevent Child Abuse Vermont (PCAV) and serves as the State chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America, and

Whereas, PCAV's mission "promotes and supports healthy relationships within families, schools, and communities to eliminate child abuse," and

Whereas, its goals include ending the generational cycle of abuse, training all who interact with children to prevent child abuse and neglect, and empowering children to be heard, and

Whereas, PCAV's original major project was creating the Nurturing Program for Parents and Children, and it served as a model for the more than 650 similar programs PCAV has since implemented, and

Whereas, in excess of 300,000 copies of PCAV's *Vermont Parents' Home Companion and Resource Directory* have been issued, and the publication includes valuable information and advice on parenting as well as a comprehensive directory of child and family support services, and

Whereas, PCAV works with children, adolescents, and adults to reduce the prevalence of child sexual abuse, the leading form of child abuse in Vermont, through initiatives such as the school based Care for Kids and the Sexual Abuse Free Environment for Teens (SAFE-T), and

Whereas, other important PCAV efforts include the Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma Prevention Program and its work with incarcerated parents, and

Whereas, the Governor has proclaimed April 2016 as Prevent Child Abuse Month, and PCAV is planning a 40th anniversary celebration aimed at making Vermont a child-abuse-free State, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Prevent Child Abuse Vermont on its 40th anniversary and recognizes its essential contribution to the improvement of family life in Vermont, and be it further

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