

# State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

## Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 234

House concurrent resolution honoring MacArthur Fellow Alison Bechdel of Bolton on her artistic and literary achievements

Offered by: Representatives Stevens of Waterbury, Wood of Waterbury, Frank of Underhill, and Till of Jericho

Offered by: Senators Ashe, Baruth, Lyons, Sirotkin, Snelling, and Zuckerman

Whereas, it is rare for an author's creative oeuvre to result in a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship and inspire a Tony Award-winning Broadway musical, and

Whereas, Alison Bechdel of Bolton was raised in an artistic Pennsylvania family, filled with unusual family dynamics, including the premature death of her father that brought much sadness to her family, and

Whereas, a graduate of Oberlin College, Alison Bechdel embarked on a career combining her talents as a cartoonist and writer, and

Whereas, for 25 years, she drew the comic strip *Dykes to Watch Out For*, that commented on cultural and political trends from a lesbian perspective, and

Whereas, in 2006, her graphic memoir, *Fun Home: A Tragicomic*, was published, drawing on her superb observational skills and unique family history, and it has sold over a quarter-million copies, and

Whereas, in 2012, her second book-length volume, *Are You My Mother? A Comic Drama*, a psychoanalytic examination of the relationship the author had with her emotionally distant mother, was released, and

Whereas, her books brought Bechdel a new literary notoriety, and, in 2014, the MacArthur Foundation, recognizing her pioneering contributions to American arts and letters, awarded her a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship, popularly referred to as a "genius grant," and

Whereas, *Fun Home* enticed playwright Lisa Kron, composer Jeanine Tesori, and theater director Sam Gold to collaborate on a musical version of Bechdel's 2006 memoir, and, in April 2015, the musical opened triumphantly on Broadway, and

Whereas, although Alison Bechdel cannot claim personal credit for the creation of the musical that has won an impressive five 2015 Tony Awards and drawn large audiences, she was a close observer of the creative process leading to opening night, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors MacArthur Fellow Alison Bechdel of Bolton on her artistic and literary achievements, and be it further

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