

No. R-43. House concurrent resolution designating January as National Mentoring Month in Vermont.

(H.C.R.19)

Offered by: Representatives Gallivan of Chittenden, Burke of Brattleboro, Carr of Brandon, Clarkson of Woodstock, Evans of Essex, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Lanpher of Vergennes, Malcolm of Pawlet, Manwaring of Wilmington, McCarthy of St. Albans City, Potter of Clarendon, Russell of Rutland City, and Vowinkel of Wilder

Whereas, mentoring is “a sustained relationship and friendship between a young person and an adult in which the adult provides the young person with support, guidance, and assistance as the young person develops,” and

Whereas, research has consistently shown “that all children need and benefit from responsible, caring adults in their lives,” and

Whereas, in 2000, The Permanent Fund for the Well-Being of Vermont Children, recognizing that waiting lists for mentoring programs in Chittenden County were long, met with community leaders on this problem, and then challenged mentoring programs to develop a strategic plan, and

Whereas, this led to the formation of the Chittenden County Mentoring Network, which in turn sought the assistance of the United Way of Chittenden County and the Champlain Initiative, and these organizations established “Mobius, the Mentoring Movement” to improve and coordinate mentoring programs in the county, and

Whereas, Mobius is named after the astronomer and mathematician who defined the Mobius strip as a one-sided, one-edged “continuous strip of paper with a 180-degree twist in the center,” effectively an infinite circle of connection, and

Whereas, a Mobius mentor, working in both school and community environments, commits to work with a youngster for one hour a week for a period of one year, and

Whereas, many community organizations both in Chittenden County and throughout the state now provide mentoring programs, and

Whereas, partnerships between business, schools, and other youth service organizations and mentoring programs are an effective way for businesses to support youth in their communities, and

Whereas, collaborative mentoring programs with greater visibility are able to serve more youth, and many young persons are waiting for mentors, and

Whereas, Mobius, which as of January 1, 2013, is a statewide organization, and other private and public mentoring organizations, including the Vermont Mentoring Funders Collaborative, continue to perform this important service for youth in Vermont, and

Whereas, since 2002, January has been designated as National Mentoring Month, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates January as National Mentoring Month in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Mobius and the Mentoring Funders Collaborative.