

No. R-12. House concurrent resolution recognizing January 8, 2015, as Homelessness Awareness Day at the State House.

(H.C.R.1)

Offered by: Representatives Krowinski of Burlington and Head of South Burlington

Whereas, being deprived of a permanent place to live is an indignity that far too many Vermont families continue to endure, and

Whereas, the severe early-life impediments homeless children encounter may result in long-term consequences, and

Whereas, among homeless families are persons who have suffered a personal trauma such as job loss or domestic abuse, and

Whereas, the National Center on Family Homelessness (NCFH) reports that 29 percent of adults in homeless families are working, and

Whereas, the NCFH also documented that, in comparison with their peers, children experiencing homelessness are sick four times more often and have three times the rate of emotional and behavioral problems, and

Whereas, both the financial and human costs of homelessness strain public services, including education and physical and mental health care, and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that homeless youths have a higher risk of being in a gang, using heroin, feeling depressed, or attempting suicide, and

Whereas, the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness and the Chittenden County Continuum of Care's 2014 Point-in-Time count of the homeless in Vermont showed homelessness increased by 9.27% compared to 2013, and

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Annual Homeless Assessment Report reveals a 51 percent rise in homelessness in Vermont since 2007, the fifth highest increase among the 50 states, and

Whereas, the Emergency Solutions Grants Vermont Annual Report for State Fiscal Year 2014 documented 3,934 persons sheltered, of which 891 were minors, and

Whereas, according to this report, the number of families staying in ESG-funded homeless shelters increased from 517 in fiscal year 2012 to 713 in fiscal year 2014, and the majority of the increase in child homelessness was due to domestic violence, and

Whereas, the General Assembly believes it is imperative that no one, especially no child, should be homeless, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes January 8, 2015, as Homelessness 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 to End Homelessness and to the Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition.