

**No. R-77. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging on its 40th anniversary.**

(H.C.R.58)

Offered by: Representatives Russell of Rutland City, Berry of Manchester, Botzow of Pownal, Browning of Arlington, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carr of Brandon, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Cupoli of Rutland City, Dakin of Chester, Emmons of Springfield, Fagan of Rutland City, Fields of Bennington, Forguites of Springfield, Gage of Rutland City, Helm of Fair Haven, Komline of Dorset, McCoy of Poultney, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington, Potter of Clarendon, Shaw of Pittsford, Stuart of Brattleboro, Tate of Mendon, Terenzini of Rutland Town, and Toleno of Brattleboro

Offered by: Senators Campion, Flory, and Mullin

Whereas, subsequent to Congress adopting the Older Americans Act of 1965, there emerged new initiatives to address the needs of this age group, and

Whereas, in Vermont, one of the best examples of this new attention occurred in 1974 with the establishment of the Rutland County Council on Aging under the auspices of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, and

Whereas, the Bennington County Council on Aging was formed to provide similar services for senior citizens in neighboring Bennington County, and

Whereas, on May 2, 1979, the two county councils merged into a new nonprofit organization known as the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA), and

Whereas, in 2015, SVCOA operates four offices in Bennington, Brattleboro, Rutland, and Springfield and has the support of 36 staff members and hundreds of volunteers, and

Whereas, SVCOA provides a set of important programs to eligible persons in southern Vermont including a senior helpline, case management, programs on healthy aging, caregiver support, a mental health program, volunteer opportunities, legal services, health benefits counseling, and assistance with nutrition and transportation, and

Whereas, with respect to nutrition, SVCOA operates 37 meal sites and serves over 213,000 meals per year, and

Whereas, in an era of fewer public resources to finance its operations, SVCOA has created a fee-for-service division as a new revenue source, and

Whereas, in commemoration of the founding of the former Rutland County Council on Aging in 1974, the event that SVCOA considers to have marked its own establishment, the 2014 SVCOA annual meeting featured a special presentation entitled, “40 Years in Review,” and

Whereas, SVCOA improves and brightens the lives of the many persons 60 years of age and older who avail themselves of the organization’s diverse support services, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging on its 40th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging.