

**No. R-248. House concurrent resolution recognizing January 7, 2016, as Homelessness Awareness Day at the State House.**

(H.C.R.184)

Offered by: Representatives Head of South Burlington and Krowinski of 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, many homeless families include 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 children experiencing homelessness are sick four times more often and have three times the rate of emotional and behavioral problems, compared to their housed peers, and

Whereas, the Institute for Children and Poverty reports homeless children are nine times more likely to repeat a grade, four times more likely to drop out of school, and three times more likely to require special education, and

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

Whereas, the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness and the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance's 2015 Point-in-Time count reported 1,532 Vermonters were homeless on January 27, 2015, of whom 11 percent were chronically homeless, 31 percent reported serious mental illness, and 28 percent had a substance abuse disorder, and

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Annual Homeless Assessment Report revealed a 60 percent rise in homelessness in Vermont since 2008, the third highest increase among the 50 states, and

Whereas, the Vermont Emergency Solutions Grants Report for fiscal year 2015 documented 4,303 persons sheltered, of whom 20 percent were under 18 years of age, and

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Education reported 1,145 homeless Vermont school-age children during 2013–2014, a 45 percent increase since 2007–2008, 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 7, 2016, 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, to the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance, and to the Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition.