

**No. R-385. House concurrent resolution designating March 23, 2016 as Disability Awareness Day at the State House.**

(H.C.R.298)

Offered by: Representatives Botzow of Pownal, Morris of Bennington, Baser of Bristol, Burke of Brattleboro, Carr of Brandon, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Dakin of Colchester, Davis of Washington, Donahue of Northfield, Donovan of Burlington, French of Randolph, Haas of Rochester, Head of South Burlington, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Marcotte of Coventry, McCormack of Burlington, McFaun of Barre Town, Miller of Shaftsbury, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Patt of Worcester, Pearson of Burlington, Pugh of South Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Scheuermann of Stowe, Sharpe of Bristol, Sibilia of Dover, Stevens of Waterbury, Sullivan of Burlington, Sweaney of Windsor, and Townsend of South Burlington

Whereas, in both the public and private sectors, there remain disincentives for the employment of persons with disabilities, and

Whereas, it is widely recognized and accepted that persons with disabilities can and are motivated to work, and

Whereas, current assistive technology and other advancements allow persons with disabilities to be employed, in integrated settings, as productive citizens, and

Whereas, the increased socioeconomic productivity resulting from persons with disabilities entering the work force can only benefit all of society, and

Whereas, the elimination of employment disincentives for persons with disabilities would reduce entitlement payments and dependency upon public assistance programs, and

Whereas, the theme of Vermont's Disability Awareness Day 2016 is "Let's Get to Work!", now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the special employment challenges that exist for persons with disabilities and designates March 23, 2016 as Disability 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 on Disability Rights.