

Senate Calendar

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2016

SENATE CONVENES AT: 1:00 P.M.

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ACTION CALENDAR

NEW BUSINESS

Joint Resolution for Action

J.R.H. 18.

Joint resolution expressing gratitude for the outstanding service of social workers employed at the Department for Children and Families.

PENDING QUESTION: Shall the Resolution be adopted in concurrence?

Text of resolution:

Whereas, social work is a profession designed to help families and individuals navigate the crises or major changes in their lives, and

Whereas, social workers are trained to anticipate emotional and potentially sensitive situations among their clients, and

Whereas, social workers develop professional, yet undeniably personal, relationships with their clients, and

Whereas, the Department for Children and Families (DCF) employs social workers who are assigned to cases throughout Vermont and they are confronted with an ever-expanding caseload, while simultaneously encountering an increasingly confrontational environment of verbal and physical hostility, and

Whereas, the recent challenging difficulties in the working environment of these outstanding and hard-working State employees reached a tragic nadir on Friday, August 7, 2015, when veteran DCF social worker, Lara Sobel, was killed in the parking lot outside the City Center office building in Barre, and

Whereas, the news of Lara Sobel's tragic death shocked the sensibilities of Vermonters, and

Whereas, the Agency of Human Services is deeply aware of the increasing complexity and security threats of DCF social workers' caseloads, and

Whereas, threats to the physical safety of DCF social workers, in combination with increasingly large caseloads, hinders their ability to protect Vermont's children, and

Whereas, DCF social workers are essential to the well-being of many Vermont families and they deserve respect and to be treated with human decency, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses gratitude for the outstanding service of social workers employed at the Department for Children and Families, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Department for Children and Families Commissioner Ken Schatz.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS FOR NOTICE

Concurrent Resolutions for Notice under Joint Rule 16

The following joint concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House and will be adopted by the Senate unless a Senator requests floor consideration before the end of the session of the next legislative day. Requests for floor consideration should be communicated to the Secretary's Office.

H.C.R. 212-224 (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar for January 28, 2016)