

No. R-294. House concurrent resolution designating Wednesday, January 31, 2018 as Mental Health Advocacy Day at the State House.

(H.C.R.234)

Offered by: House Committee on Health Care

Whereas, according to the Constitution of the World Health Organization, health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and

Whereas, two decades ago, the General Assembly recognized this fundamental health care principle with the enactment of 1997 Acts and Resolves No. 25, Sec. 2, codified as 8 V.S.A. § 4089b, establishing mental health treatment parity as the law in Vermont, and

Whereas, all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and

Whereas, everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person; to live independently; and to be included in the community, and

Whereas, all Vermonters are entitled to receive the highest attainable standard of health care, including mental health care, without discrimination, and

Whereas, mental health care must be provided in a manner that does not result in any form of stigma, prejudice, violence, social exclusion, segregation, or institutionalization, and

Whereas, treatment practices in a mental health context must: respect the autonomy, dignity, personal preferences, and will of the individual; not constitute or lead to violations and abuses of human rights or fundamental freedoms; and not result in any form of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, and

Whereas, mental health and related community services should integrate a human rights perspective in order to avoid harm to any persons availing themselves of these services, and

Whereas, today, January 31, 2018, individuals seeking to remind the General Assembly of the fundamental importance of providing Vermonters with mental health care that equals in every respect the quality of care provided to persons with any other health conditions are visiting the State House, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates January 31, 2018 as Mental Health Advocacy 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 mental health advocacy organizations present in the State House today.