

**No. R-18. House concurrent resolution honoring Jamie Heath of Barre for her personal perseverance and unique literary contribution to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.**

(H.C.R.11)

Offered by: Representatives Sullivan of Dorset, Anthony of Barre City, LaClair of Barre Town, McFaun of Barre Town, and Walz of Barre City

Whereas, Jamie Heath, a senior at Spaulding High School, has conquered extraordinary life challenges, and

Whereas, she has a medical condition known as arteriovenous malformation, which caused her to sustain two strokes, one at seven years of age from which she recovered, and a second at 14 years of age that left her unable to move her right arm and blocked her reading and walking capabilities, and

Whereas, early in the difficult recovery process, Jamie Heath learned that her critical, but not terminal, medical condition still qualified her for a wish from the Make-A-Wish organization, and she elected the opportunity to swim with sea turtles in Hawaii, and

Whereas, the wish proved to be extremely therapeutic in her ultimately successful recovery process, and

Whereas, upon her return from Hawaii, Jamie Heath collaborated with southern Vermont illustrator Leonard Wells Kenyon, creating a book entitled *Wishes are Medicine! How Make-A-Wish Gave Me Hope and Helped Me Heal*, and

Whereas, upon the book's publication, she toured the State, under the auspices of Make-A-Wish Vermont, to share how her wish experience served as a critical catalyst in her recovery process, and

Whereas, Jamie greatly impressed officials from Make-A-Wish America, and the national organization invited her to read the book before an audience of approximately 1,000 persons gathered in Arizona, and

Whereas, her presentation triggered book orders from more than 35 Make-A-Wish chapters as a way to promote the organization's mission, and

Whereas, Jamie Heath has inspired critically ill youngsters throughout the United States and Canada and aspires to a career with Make-A-Wish or a similarly focused nonprofit organization, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Jamie Heath of Barre for her personal perseverance and unique literary contribution to the Make-A-Wish Foundation and extends best future wishes, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Jamie Heath in Barre.