

No. R-55. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Vermont Center for Independent Living on its 40th anniversary.

(H.C.R.43)

Offered by: Representative Pugh of South Burlington

Whereas, the mission of the Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) is “to empower people with disabilities to work together to promote dignity, independence and civil rights,” and

Whereas, the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Pub.L. No. 93-112 (the Act) facilitated the establishment of organizations assisting persons with disabilities to live independently, and

Whereas, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, on February 13, 1979, VCIL was established, and as are its counterparts in other states, it is “committed to cross-disability services, the promotion of active citizenship and working with others to create services that support self-determination and full participation in community life,” and

Whereas, VCIL was the first organization in Vermont to have persons with disabilities constituting a majority of both its staff and board, and

Whereas, VCIL has been a devoted partner, statewide and nationally, to other organizations and individuals in improving the lives of people with disabilities, and

Whereas, among the innovative programs that VCIL sponsors is AgrAbility, which “supports farmers and farmworkers with disabilities who are engaged in production agriculture and want to continue farming,” and

Whereas, another VCIL program is the Vermont Interpreter Referral Service, which provides American Sign Language–spoken English interpreters to enable persons who are Deaf to participate more broadly in Vermont society, and

Whereas, VCIL is “dedicated to the truism that people with disabilities are full and equal citizens of this State and this nation,” and

Whereas, the four decades during which VCIL has promoted remarkable strides forward for Vermonters with disabilities are an accomplishment worthy of legislative commemoration, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Vermont Center for Independent Living on its 40th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Center for Independent Living.