

No. R-96. House concurrent resolution recognizing March 15, 2019 as Brain Injury Awareness Day in Vermont.

(H.C.R.78)

Offered by: Representative Squirrell of Underhill

Whereas, brain injuries can occur unexpectedly and instantaneously and can result in cognitive, emotional, and physical challenges that may last a lifetime, and

Whereas, the Brain Injury Association of America estimates that 3.5 million Americans, including both children and adults, annually sustain brain injuries, while the organization's local affiliate, the Brain Injury Association of Vermont, estimates that 10,000 Vermonters have long-term challenges related to brain injury, and

Whereas, brain injuries may result from an infection, a lack of oxygen, a stroke, a brain tumor, or as a ramification of a drug overdose, and

Whereas, a subcategory of brain injury is traumatic brain injury, which can be precipitated by an external event such as an assault, an automobile accident, a fall, or a sports-related injury, and

Whereas, the Brain Injury Association of Vermont has compiled data that indicate that 4,500 Vermonters annually sustain traumatic brain injuries, and

Whereas, the best hope for a person to resume normal living and work activities after sustaining a brain injury is to seek medical attention as soon as possible, and

Whereas, the Brain Injury Association of Vermont offers educational and support programs, including intake and referral services, at no charge, and

Whereas, it specifically makes available the web-based Vermont School Concussion Management Toolkit that provides informative digital resources to school athletic officials, coaches, student athletes, and parents, and

Whereas, the Brain Injury Association of America has designated March as Brain Injury Awareness Month, and Vermont legislative recognition of this important health issue will increase Vermonters' awareness of brain injuries, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes March 15, 2019 as Brain Injury Awareness Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Brain Injury Association of Vermont.