

**No. R-209. House concurrent resolution designating May 2019 as Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Awareness Month in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.170)

Offered by: Representatives Ralph of Hartland and Bartholomew of Hartland

Whereas, in 400 BC, the ancient Greek physician Hippocrates first described the symptoms of the medical condition now known as Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, the collective name for 13 genetic connective-tissue disorders, and

Whereas, in 1901, Dr. Edvard Ehlers recognized the syndrome as a distinct medical condition, and in 1908, Dr. Henri-Alexandre Danlos postulated that skin hyperextensibility, which is skin that can be stretched farther than normal, and tissue fragility were its core elements, and

Whereas, joint hypermobility, or joints that can be stretched farther than normal, is also prominently associated with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, and

Whereas, among the types of connective-tissue disorders classified as Ehlers-Danlos syndrome are those featuring a predominantly cardiac-valvular, dermatological, or periodontal impact, and

Whereas, because of its rarity, a correct diagnosis can require many years, during which the individual might experience extreme physical pain, and

Whereas, Ehlers-Danlos syndrome disproportionately affects women, and

Whereas, no cure has been discovered for Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, but once properly diagnosed, its symptoms can usually be managed, and

Whereas, after years of debilitating pain, Taylor Galgay of Windsor recently received a correct Ehlers-Danlos syndrome diagnosis, and she is now working to increase awareness of this malady, the importance of a correct and early diagnosis, and the need for treatment to prevent complications, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates May 2019 as Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Awareness Month in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Taylor Galgay and to the Ehlers-Danlos Society in Montgomery Village, Maryland.