

# State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

## Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 106

House concurrent resolution honoring Robert S. Thorn Jr. for his innovative leadership as a mental health administrator, counselor, and educator

Offered by: Representatives Smith of New Haven, Lippert of Hinesburg, Birong of Vergennes, Conlon of Cornwall, Cordes of Lincoln, Elder of Starksboro, Norris of Shoreham, Scheu of Middlebury, and Sheldon of Middlebury

Offered by: Senators Bray and Hardy

Whereas, Bob Thorn earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in educational psychology from the University of Connecticut and a doctorate in psychology from the University of Vermont, and

Whereas, his four-decade career in Addison County began in 1979 with his appointment as coordinator at what has become Community Associates, which provides services to people with developmental disabilities, and

Whereas, in 1980, Bob Thorn became the director of the program and remained in this role until 1994, and

Whereas, Bob Thorn then assumed a new challenge as the co-executive director of the Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC), and in 1996, he became the organization's sole executive director, and

Whereas, under his inspired leadership, CSAC significantly improved its client and administrative facilities, in part through a capital campaign he led, and

Whereas, Bob Thorn's modesty is evident, as he generously credits his management team for the growth and success of CSAC, and his staff has praised his character and professional dedication, and

Whereas, his focus on the problems at hand is illustrated in his common refrain of "don't try to understand parents, just help them," and a colleague at CSAC has described Bob Thorn's influence on the organization's work environment as creating "a culture of caring" for clients and staff, and

Whereas, when the Brandon Training School was shuttered, Bob Thorn was a leader in developing new local support services and implementing community reintegration, and

Whereas, he helped develop a master's degree program in mental health counseling at Trinity College, served as an instructor and mentor to students, and supported the program's continuance through two host-college relocations, and

Whereas, Bob Thorn, who has worked tirelessly to eliminate the stigma associated with mental health and who has added dynamic new dimensions to the mental health counseling profession, is concluding his leadership duties at CSAC, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Robert S. Thorn Jr. for his innovative leadership as a mental health administrator, counselor, and educator, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Bob Thorn and to CSAC.