

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred J.R.S. 53  
3 entitled “Joint resolution supporting transgender youth and their parents  
4 who seek essential medical care for the treatment of gender dysphoria”  
5 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the  
6 resolution be amended by striking out all after the title and inserting in lieu  
7 thereof the following:

8 *Whereas*, Vermont values the transgender members of our community and  
9 has been a leader in establishing policies that prohibit discrimination based on  
10 gender identity, and

11 *Whereas*, the American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter, the  
12 University of Vermont Children’s Hospital, the Vermont Medical Society, the  
13 Vermont Academy of Family Physicians, the Vermont Psychiatric Association,  
14 the Vermont American Academy of Emergency Physicians, the Physician  
15 Assistant Academy of Vermont, the American Academy of Child and  
16 Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Medical Association, and other leading  
17 health care authorities support best practice medical care for transgender youth,  
18 and

19 *Whereas*, patients, their parents, and their health care providers should  
20 decide what medical care is appropriate for a patient in accordance with  
21 current medical best practices, not politicians, and

1       *Whereas*, denying best practice medical care and support to transgender  
2 youth can be life-threatening and has been shown to contribute to depression,  
3 social isolation, self-hatred, risk of self-harm and suicidal behavior, and  
4 more, and

5       *Whereas*, more than a third of the 150,000 transgender youth 13 to 17 years  
6 of age in the United States live in the 15 states that have restricted or banned  
7 access to best practice medical care for transgender youth or are considering  
8 legislation to do so, and

9       *Whereas*, parents of transgender children, like all parents, simply want to do  
10 what is best for their child, and many such parents now face prosecution for  
11 child abuse in some jurisdictions for seeking best practice medical care for  
12 their transgender child as recommended by their health care provider, and

13       *Whereas*, Vermont recognizes the importance of letting transgender youth  
14 know that they are seen and valued for who they are, protected from  
15 stigmatizing policies that jeopardize their health and well-being, and supported  
16 by a community that wants to see them thrive, *now therefore be it*

17       ***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

18       That the General Assembly condemns the actions of states to ban best  
19 practice medical care for transgender youth and prosecute parents for seeking  
20 such essential care for their children, *and be it further*

1           **Resolved:** That the General Assembly shall explore all available options to  
2 ensure that transgender youth and their families are safe in Vermont to make  
3 the best medical care decisions for themselves in consultation with their health  
4 care providers *and be it further*

5           **Resolved:** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this  
6 resolution to Assistant Secretary for Health for the U.S. Department of Health  
7 and Human Services Admiral Rachel L. Levine, U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy of  
8 Vermont, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, and U.S. Representative  
9 Peter Welch of Vermont.

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(Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE COMMITTEE