

No. R-13. House concurrent resolution designating January 29, 2025 as Mental Health Advocacy Day at the State House.

(H.C.R.8)

Offered by Representatives Cina of Burlington, Berbeco of Winooski, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Coffin of Cavendish, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Donahue of Northfield, Graning of Jericho, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Headrick of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, Morris of Springfield, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, and Stevens of Waterbury

Whereas, without any discrimination, all Vermonters are entitled to receive the highest attainable quality of health care, including mental health care, and

Whereas, 1997 Acts and Resolves No. 25, Sec. 2, codified as 8 V.S.A. § 4089b, established that the treatment of an individual's mental health must be on par with that person's physical health care, and

Whereas, mental health care must be provided in a manner that does not result in any form of stigma, prejudice, violence, social exclusion, segregation, or unnecessary institutionalization, and

Whereas, all mental health treatment practices should respect an individual's autonomy, dignity, personal preferences, and will, and they must not constitute or lead to violations and abuses of human rights or fundamental freedoms, and

Whereas, mental health support and related community services should integrate a human rights perspective in order to avoid harm to any individuals availing themselves of these services, and

Whereas, today, January 29, 2025, individuals are visiting the State House seeking to remind the General Assembly of the fundamental importance of providing Vermonters with mental health care that equals in every respect the quality of care provided to individuals with any other health conditions, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates January 29, 2025 as Mental Health Advocacy Day at the State House, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the mental health advocacy organizations present today in the State House.