

No. R-79. House concurrent resolution honoring Linda E. Johnson for her outstanding State and national contributions to the prevention of child abuse.

(H.C.R.59)

Offered by Representative Wood of Waterbury

Whereas, during her extraordinary 38-year tenure as the Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse Vermont (PCAVT), Linda Johnson devoted considerable energy to developing innovative approaches to combating child abuse, and

Whereas, Linda Johnson provided invaluable leadership and guidance to PCAVT's work that "promotes and supports healthy relationships within families, schools and communities to eliminate child abuse," and

Whereas, her pioneering initiatives have garnered praise, both in Vermont and nationally, where she is a recognized leader in the effort to prevent child abuse, particularly child sexual abuse, and

Whereas, Linda Johnson developed a deep understanding of the complex issues facing children and their families that might lead to child abuse, and she approached this daunting task compassionately, and

Whereas, as PCAVT executive director, she structured the organization into three departments: the Family Support Programs, the Healthy Relationships Project, and the Safe Environments for Infants and Toddlers services, and the PCAVT collaborates with numerous public and nonprofit organizations, and

Whereas, Linda Johnson directed and actively engaged in PCAVT's effective advocacy campaign that led to State funding for 80 parent support groups, impacting over 1,900 children, and enabling programs to be conducted in each of the five men's prisons in Vermont, and

Whereas, she spearheaded projects that contributed to a 66 percent reduction in the number of child abuse victims and a significant decrease in the prevalence of Shaken Baby Syndrome, and

Whereas, in December 2024, as she concluded her nearly four decades serving as the PCAVT executive director, Linda Johnson was honored as the first recipient of the organization's Lifetime Champion for Children Award, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Linda E. Johnson for her outstanding State and national contributions to the prevention of child abuse, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Linda Johnson and PCAVT.