

No. R-128. House concurrent resolution recognizing May 2025 as National Foster Care Month in Vermont.

(H.C.R.104)

Offered by Committee on Human Services

House concurrent resolution recognizing May 2025 as National Foster Care Month in Vermont

Whereas, according to the U.S. Child Welfare Information Gateway, there are over 365,000 children and youth in foster care, and “77 percent of eligible youth in foster care, ages 14–21 years old, left care without receiving the federally funded services necessary to prepare them for adulthood and independent living,” and

Whereas, the Department for Children and Families reports that as of April 1, 2025, 868 Vermont children were in foster care, there were 820 licensed foster caregivers and 174 caregiver licenses were pending, and approximately 35 percent of foster caregivers were family members or close friends who voluntarily secured foster care licensure, and

Whereas, on May 10, 1988, at the initiative of the U.S. Children’s Bureau, President Ronald Reagan signed Proclamation 5820 establishing Foster Care Month, which continues to be observed annually to direct the public’s attention to the nation’s system of foster care, and

Whereas, Proclamation 5820 acknowledged that “the family has the prime responsibility for nurturing children...[but] some parents are unable to provide a minimally acceptable level of care for their children, and temporary or permanent alternative placement is necessary...[and that] foster care must... [focus] on the well-being of the child,” and

Whereas, the 2025 theme for National Foster Care Month is “Engaging Youth. Building Supports. Strengthening Opportunities.” — a theme that “highlights the need to create a child welfare system that authentically engages and supports young people who are preparing to leave foster care,” a current topic of great concern in the foster care community, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes May 2025 as National Foster Care Month in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the System of Care Unit Director at the Department for Children and Families’ Family Services Division.