

**No. R-165. Joint resolution supporting Vermont's transgender and non-binary community and declaring Vermont's commitment to fighting discrimination and treating all citizens with respect and dignity.**

(J.R.S.15)

Offered by Senators Hardy, Baruth, Beck, Bongartz, Brennan, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Douglass, Gulick, Harrison, Hashim, Lyons, Major, Mattos, Perchlik, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, Watson, White and Williams,

*Whereas*, Vermont is deeply committed to the principles of equity and inclusion and values the transgender and non-binary individuals in our community, and

*Whereas*, Vermont has been a leader in establishing policies that prohibit discrimination based on gender identity, enacting broad protections in law in the areas of employment, housing, education, banking, and public accommodations, and

*Whereas*, Vermont enacted legislation permitting individuals to amend their vital records to accurately reflect and affirm their gender identities, and

*Whereas*, Vermont recently enacted comprehensive legislation to affirm the right of individuals to obtain essential gender-affirming medical care and to protect those individuals, their families, and their health care providers from legal attacks initiated outside our State, and

*Whereas*, Vermont unequivocally rejects any attempt to stigmatize, devalue, and discriminate against individuals based on their gender identity and is committed to ensuring that transgender and non-binary individuals living in, working in, or visiting our State receive equal protection under the laws of our State, *now therefore be it*

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

That the General Assembly recommits to the principle that all individuals are welcome here and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect and that Vermont will continue to stand with our transgender and non-binary family, friends, and neighbors against discrimination, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Pride Center of Vermont, Outright Vermont, and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.