

No. R-244. House concurrent resolution designating February 2026 as Recovery Awareness Month in Vermont.

(H.C.R.203)

Offered by Representatives Maguire of Rutland City and Berbeco of Winooski

Whereas, according to a recent report of the research site methadone.org, “Vermont faces one of the most severe substance abuse challenges in the United States, consistently ranking among the top states for illicit drug use ... [and also] ... faces significant challenges with alcohol consumption and abuse,” a fact that the State’s high rates of binge drinking and alcohol abuse document, and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 10.3 percent of Vermont youth (12–17 years of age) reported illicit drug use during the prior month, and Vermont ranks 48th among the states in this category, and

Whereas, the Vermont Association for Mental Health and Addiction Recovery (VAMHAR), a statewide nonprofit organization established in 1939, “embrace[s] the full spectrum of the human experience—with compassion and acceptance...” and works to strengthen collaboration across agencies, providers, employers, and communities in its effort to ameliorate substance abuse, and

Whereas, peer-led recovery centers and residences across the State have coalesced as Recovery Partners of Vermont, and this multimember organization serves on the front line of supporting individuals in their journeys from active addiction to lives in recovery, and

Whereas, both these organizations, in coordination with State agencies, community partners, employers, and Vermonters with lived experiences, are intensifying their collaboration to break down silos and build coordinated, community-rooted pathways to recovery, and these partnerships greatly benefit the well-being of all Vermonters, and

Whereas, on February 11, 2026, Vermonters involved in the recovery process gathered at the State House to celebrate progress and educate legislators concerning these initiatives, and a broader public knowledge of these efforts is vitally important, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates February 2026 as Recovery Awareness Month in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to VAMHAR and Recovery Partners of Vermont.