

**No. R-278. Senate concurrent resolution recognizing March 2026 as International Long COVID Awareness Month in Vermont.**

(S.C.R.8)

Offered by Committee on Health and Welfare,

*Whereas*, in May 2023, the World Health Organization terminated its COVID-19 emergency, but according to the Yale School of Medicine, over 20 million Americans live with the long-term effects of the COVID-19 virus, a malady known as long COVID, and this situation represents a major public health and economic challenge, and

*Whereas*, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine define long COVID as “an infection-associated chronic condition (IACC) that occurs after SARS-CoV-2 infection and is present for at least 3 months as a continuous, relapsing and remitting, or progressive disease state that affects one or more organ systems,” and

*Whereas*, there are more than 200 long COVID symptoms, including “persistent fatigue, post-exertional malaise, brain fog, and sleep disturbance ... similar to those reported by people with ME/CFS (myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome) and other multi-system chronic complex diseases (msCCD),” and other symptoms can include changes in smell and taste, chest pain, coughing, pins and needles sensations, and a fast-beating or pounding heart, and

*Whereas*, in 2023, the International Long COVID Awareness (ILCA) organization designated March as International Long COVID Awareness Month and March 15 as International Long COVID Awareness Day to educate the public on the societal implications of long COVID, and

*Whereas*, in 2026, International Long COVID Awareness Month will “focus on the impacts of SARS-CoV-2 and Long COVID on the heart & cardiovascular system,” and

*Whereas*, among the topically specific dates associated with International Long COVID Awareness Month are Long COVID: Every Heartbeat Counts (March 7), International Long COVID Awareness Week (March 9–15), Disability Support for People with Long COVID (March 16–22), and Long COVID in Children (March 23–31), and

*Whereas*, raising the importance of long COVID awareness in Vermont is of the utmost urgency, *now therefore be it*

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

That the General Assembly recognizes March 2026 as International Long COVID Awareness Month in Vermont, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Commissioner of Health.