

**No. R-290. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired on a century of advocating for and facilitating the realization of outstanding support services.**

(H.C.R.238)

Offered by All Members of the House

*Whereas*, in 1926, Helen Keller, the ardent advocate for individuals with visual impairment, toured Vermont and encouraged the State's governmental leadership to provide public financing for services assisting Vermonters who were blind or visually impaired, and

*Whereas*, she proved an effective advocate, as her speaking engagement in Burlington sparked considerable interest, and, in May 1926, her efforts resulted in the establishment of the nonprofit organization the Vermont Association for the Blind, now known as the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI), and

*Whereas*, upon being formed, VABVI partnered with the State to develop a statewide program to facilitate vital support services for impacted individuals, and

*Whereas*, for the past century, this partnership has improved the lives of countless Vermonters of all ages who are either blind or visually impaired, and

*Whereas*, in 2026, VABVI is an integral organization in the system of support for the visually impaired, and this work is now especially important as the number of persons in need of these vital services is anticipated to double by the year 2030, *now therefore be it*

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

That the General Assembly congratulates the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired on a century of advocating for and facilitating the realization of outstanding support services, *and be it further*

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