

# State of Vermont

## House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

### House Resolution

H.R. 17

Offered by Committee on Human Services

House resolution affirming that all Vermonters are presumed to be competent to communicate and must be provided effective communication resources of their choice

*Whereas*, in the early 1990s, facilitated communication (FC) was introduced in Vermont, and, in 1994, practice and validation guidelines to enhance FC's integrity were implemented, and

*Whereas*, in 2000, an important step in serving those Vermonters for whom alternative communication methods are essential occurred with the establishment of the Vermont Communication Task Force, a statewide communication network that works in coordination with the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living's Developmental Disabilities Services Division, and

*Whereas*, the fundamental tenet of the Task Force is "that all persons are competent, can communicate, and must receive the support, training and technology needed to actively participate in all aspects of life," and

*Whereas*, the Task Force, with the support of two regional communication specialists, offers guidance, policy recommendations, research monitoring, and training on the individual, provider, and State levels, in the context of developmental disabilities services, and

*Whereas*, this operational structure is intended to ensure Vermonters receive the necessary support to communicate through the method of their choice, and

*Whereas*, it is of the utmost importance that individuals' communication challenges not be viewed as indicative of a limitation of their intellectual competence, and

*Whereas*, the Rapid Prompting Method of communication assistance may be a beneficial option for assisting individuals to communicate, *now therefore be it*

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

That this legislative body affirms that all Vermonters are presumed to be competent to communicate and must be provided effective communication resources of their choice, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Communication Task Force.