

# State of Vermont

## House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

### Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 20

House concurrent resolution celebrating over two centuries of peaceful presidential transitions

Offered by: Representatives Lewis of Berlin, Ainsworth of Royalton, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Beyor of Highgate, Cupoli of Rutland City, Devereux of Mount Holly, Hebert of Vernon, LaClair of Barre Town, Lawrence of Lyndon, Morrissey of Bennington, Myers of Essex, Pearce of Richford, Savage of Swanton, Shaw of Pittsford, Smith of New Haven, Strong of Albany, Tate of Mendon, Turner of Milton, and Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh

Whereas, a special highlight of our nation's political history is the uninterrupted chain of peaceful presidential transitions spanning over two centuries, and

Whereas, through 2016, 44 presidents have governed the United States, and on 21 occasions, Inauguration Day marked a change in the president's political party, and

Whereas, the first major test in the presidential transition process occurred in 1797 when George Washington passed the executive authority to his fellow Federalist, John Adams, signifying that the leader of our nation serves for a limited tenure subject to an electoral decision and not for life as does a monarch, and

Whereas, another milestone transition took place in 1801, when not only was there a change in President, from John Adams to Thomas Jefferson, but the President's partisan affiliation switched from Federalist to Democratic-Republican, and

Whereas, presidential deaths due to natural causes in 1841, 1850, 1923, and 1945 and even more memorably because of an assassination in 1865, 1881, 1901, and 1963 did not halt the peaceful transfer of power to the sitting Vice President, proving the durability and strength of the presidential transition process even under the most perilous circumstances at the closing days of the Civil War, and

Whereas, the presidential electorate has become far more societally inclusive since the election of George Washington with racial discrimination barred, as a result of the U.S. Constitution's 15th Amendment and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the granting of the franchise to women in accordance with the U.S. Constitution's 19th Amendment, and

Whereas, at critical moments in our nation's history, such as in the weeks preceding the Civil War in 1861 or at the height of the Great Depression in 1933, the transfer of presidential power signaled extraordinary public policy implications, but this most important political event still proceeded peacefully, and

Whereas, Americans can take great pride in the extraordinary continuity in the peaceful transfer of executive power in our nation, starting in the 18th and continuing into the 21st century, and the inauguration in 2017 of the 45th President continues this unbroken chain, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly celebrates over two centuries of peaceful presidential transitions.