

No. R-95. House concurrent resolution congratulating Bennington Project Independence on its 40th anniversary and the 10th anniversary of its home at the Dr. Richard A. Sleeman Center.

(H.C.R.77)

Offered by: Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Bates of Bennington, Brownell of Pownal, Browning of Arlington, Carroll of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, James of Manchester, and Sullivan of Dorset

Offered by: Senators Campion and Sears

Whereas, maximizing the ability for older Vermonters to remain residents in their own homes is a public policy goal with broad appeal, and

Whereas, starting in the late 1970s, a new approach to meeting this worthy objective was introduced through the establishment of adult day care centers, and

Whereas, the Bennington Elderly Action Committee secured State financing to establish Bennington Project Independence (BPI), which was incorporated in 1978 and opened in the basement of a local Baptist church in September 1979, and

Whereas, the founders of BPI were Beth Cheadle, Reverend Kenneth Costin, Dale Loomis, Joseph LoPiccolo, Virginia North, John Powell, Claire O’Leary, Mary Seidel, William F.D. Smith, Joseph Thorpe, and David Vilner, and

Whereas, BPI provided daytime on-site support services to both older area residents and younger adults with disabilities, and

Whereas, the original location soon proved inadequate to meet BPI’s expanding needs, and in 1982 it moved to the Bennington Senior Citizens Service Center building, which also soon proved too confining, and

Whereas, a larger and more creatively designed headquarters, with the potential for future growth, was needed, and

Whereas, as the result of the extraordinary generosity of Lillian Seward, phase one of the Dr. Richard A. Sleeman Center opened its doors in 2009, and it constituted both a memorial to Lillian Seward’s brother and the realization of BPI’s dream for a more durable and accommodating home, and

Whereas, the center is a meticulously designed state-of-the art facility that provides exceptional care in a homelike environment, and

Whereas, BPI now serves approximately 50–55 persons per day, and potential future expansion will enable that number to increase, and

Whereas, Bennington area residents appreciate the caring and important role that BPI serves for its clientele, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Bennington Project Independence on its 40th anniversary and the 10th anniversary of its home at the Dr. Richard A. Sleeman Center, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Bennington Project Independence and Lillian Seward.