

**No. R-188. House concurrent resolution designating January 31, 2024 as Mental Health Advocacy Day at the State House.**

(H.C.R.143)

Offered by: Representatives Cina of Burlington, Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Cordes of Lincoln, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Goldman of Rockingham, and Houghton of Essex Junction

Whereas, without any discrimination, all Vermonters are entitled to receive the highest attainable quality of health care, including mental health care, and

Whereas, 1997 Acts and Resolves No. 25, Sec. 2, codified as 8 V.S.A. § 4089b, established that the treatment of an individual's mental health must be on par with that person's physical health care, and

Whereas, mental health care must be provided in a manner that does not result in any form of stigma, prejudice, violence, social exclusion, segregation, or unnecessary institutionalization, and

Whereas, all mental health treatment practices should respect an individual's autonomy, dignity, personal preferences, and will, and they must not constitute or lead to violations and abuses of human rights or fundamental freedoms, and

Whereas, mental health support and related community services should integrate a human rights perspective in order to avoid harm to any individuals availing themselves of these services, and

Whereas, today, January 31, 2024, individuals are visiting the State House seeking to remind the General Assembly of the fundamental importance of providing Vermonters with mental health care that equals in every respect the quality of care provided to individuals with any other health conditions, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates January 31, 2024 as Mental Health Advocacy Day at the State House, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the mental health advocacy organizations present today in the State House.