

**No. R-228. House concurrent resolution honoring Rita Markley for her superb leadership in the effort to eradicate homelessness in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.155)

Offered by: Representatives Bluemle of Burlington, Killacky of South Burlington, and Rachelson of Burlington

Whereas, Rita Markley spent the first six years of her life living in an orphanage, an experience that imbued her with an empathy for the homeless, and

Whereas, upon her arrival in Burlington more than 30 years ago, she sought a volunteer opportunity to work with the homeless and was directed to the Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS), subsequently becoming COTS development director, and, in 1996, the organization's executive director, and

Whereas, Rita Markley laments that, starting in the 1980s, the cost of housing began forcing more people, including the employed, into homelessness, and

Whereas, she has transformed COTS from a charity focused on emergency situations into one centered on advocacy and homeless prevention, and

Whereas, COTS now oversees a year-round emergency shelter, 98 units of affordable housing, and a day station, all offering essential support services, and

Whereas, Rita Markley, who facilitated COTS' financing of the Housing Resource Center, Vermont's largest homeless prevention initiative, and founded the Chittenden County Continuum of Care, and the Statewide Coalition to End Homelessness, is concluding her remarkable COTS career, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Rita Markley for her superb leadership in the effort to eradicate homelessness in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Rita Markley and to the Committee on Temporary Shelter.