

No. R-417. House concurrent resolution congratulating Special Olympics International on its 50th anniversary and extending best wishes to the Special Olympics Vermont delegation competing in the Special Olympics 2018 USA Games.

(H.C.R.343)

Offered by: Representatives Wood of Waterbury, Ainsworth of Royalton, Bancroft of Westford, Bartholomew of Hartland, Baser of Bristol, Batchelor of Derby, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Beyor of Highgate, Bissonnette of Winooski, Bock of Chester, Brennan of Colchester, Briglin of Thetford, Browning of Arlington, Brumsted of Shelburne, Buckholz of Hartford, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carr of Brandon, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christensen of Weathersfield, Christie of Hartford, Connor of Fairfield, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Cupoli of Rutland City, Dakin of Colchester, Devereux of Mount Holly, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donahue of Northfield, Donovan of Burlington, Dunn of Essex, Fagan of Rutland City, Feltus of Lyndon, Forguites of Springfield, Frenier of Chelsea, Gage of Rutland City, Gamache of Swanton, Gannon of Wilmington, Graham of Williamstown, Haas of Rochester, Harrison of Chittenden, Hebert of Vernon, Helm of Fair Haven, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Montpelier, Hooper of Randolph, Houghton of Essex, Howard of Rutland City, Jessup of Middlesex, Joseph of North Hero, Juskiewicz of Cambridge, Keefe of Manchester, Keenan of St. Albans City, Krowinski of Burlington, LaClair of Barre Town, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lefebvre of Newark, Lewis of Berlin, Long of Newfane, Lucke of Hartford, Marcotte of Coventry, Martel of Waterford, Mattos of Milton, McCormack of Burlington, McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington, Myers of Essex, Nolan of Morristown, Norris of Shoreham, Noyes of Wolcott, Ode of Burlington, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Pajala of Londonderry, Parent of St. Albans Town, Pearce of Richford, Poirier of Barre City, Potter of Clarendon, Pugh of South Burlington, Quimby of Concord, Read of Fayston, Rosenquist of Georgia, Savage of Swanton, Scheu of Middlebury, Scheuermann of Stowe, Sharpe of Bristol, Shaw of Pittsford, Sheldon of Middlebury, Smith of Derby, Smith of New Haven, Stevens of Waterbury, Strong of Albany, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Burlington, Terenzini of Rutland Town, Till of Jericho, Toleno of Brattleboro, Toll of Danville, Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Turner of Milton, Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh, Viens of Newport City, Walz of Barre City, Webb of Shelburne, Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, Wright of Burlington, Yacovone of Morristown, Yantachka of Charlotte, and Young of Glover

Offered by: Senators Balint, Branagan, Bray, Brock, Clarkson, Collamore, Flory, McCormack, Nitka, Soucy, and White

Whereas, half a century ago, Special Olympics was established to create “a new world of inclusion and community, where every single person is accepted and welcomed, regardless of ability or disability,” and

Whereas, Special Olympics is centered on athletes with intellectual disabilities who are provided the opportunity to develop their physical fitness and engage in athletic competitions, and

Whereas, the first International Special Olympics World Summer Games were held at Chicago's Soldier Field on July 19–20, 1968, and

Whereas, Special Olympics Vermont was established in 1971, and in 2018, it is an organization offering year-round activities and serving 1,700 athletes and the unified partners, in 13 Olympic-type sports, and

Whereas, at Special Olympics Vermont's largest games, its Healthy Athletes service offers comprehensive free health exams for the athletes, and

Whereas, Special Olympics Vermont's Young Athletes program serves children two through seven years of age, and

Whereas, through its Unified Sports program, Special Olympics Vermont brings together the athletes and their unified athletic partners, athletes without disabilities, in inclusive sports competitions that engender greater understanding and friendship, and

Whereas, every four years, Special Olympics conducts its USA Games, and in July 2018, this great event will take place in Seattle, Washington, with over 4,000 athletes including 14 Vermonters competing in basketball, swimming, and track, and

Whereas, the proud 2018 Special Olympics Vermont delegation members are Lindsey Albertelli, Zada Anderson, Hayley Clos, Kevin Conger, Wayne Elias, Robert Ellis-Clark, Paul Keen, Shannon Loiseau, Christopher Mitchell, Michelle Olden, Aaron Sanville, Graham Walker, Erin Watson, and Gary Whalon, and

Whereas, the delegation's coaches are Peter Booth, Selina Hunter, Chad Phalon, and Anthony Spagnolo, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Special Olympics International on its 50th anniversary and extends best wishes to the 2018 Special Olympics Vermont national team, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Special Olympics Vermont.