

No. R-33. House concurrent resolution recognizing the importance of mental health treatment in Vermont.

(H.C.R.23)

Offered by: Representatives Cina of Burlington, Andriano of Orwell, Berbeco of Winooski, Goldman of Rockingham, and Houghton of Essex Junction

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “[m]ental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being...[It] is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood,” and the organization Mental Health America has compiled recent data documenting the broad societal impact of individuals’ mental health, and

Whereas, according to the compiled data, nearly 50 million American adults experienced some form of mental illness, and more than 50 percent of these individuals did not receive any treatment, and in Vermont, the parallel numbers were 112,000 and 42.6 percent, and

Whereas, an estimated 29,000 adult Vermonters have seriously considered suicide, and

Whereas, among Vermont youth (12–17 years of age), approximately 7,000 have experienced a major depressive episode, and, of these persons, roughly 3,000 did not receive treatment, and

Whereas, for youth experiencing psychiatric distress, and who are temporarily placed in a hospital’s emergency room, the immediate situation is extremely challenging, and

Whereas, if Vermont focuses on promotion, prevention, and intervention through community-based mental health services, this strategy will help improve the lives of Vermonters who are experiencing some form of mental illness, and

Whereas, on January 30, 2023, concerned Vermonters coalesced, under the auspices of Mental Health Advocacy Day, to rally for greater attention to Vermonters’ need for better mental health support services, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the importance of mental health awareness in Vermont.