

No. R-125. House concurrent resolution recognizing March as Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month in Vermont.

(H.C.R.99)

Offered by: Representative Lippert of Hinesburg

Whereas, “bleeding disorders are a group of conditions that result when the blood cannot clot properly,” and

Whereas, these disorders result in “extended bleeding after injury, surgery, trauma or menstruation,” and if not properly treated they are potentially fatal, and

Whereas, these conditions are often classified as hemophilia, which affects 20,000 Americans, although another less commonly known bleeding disorder is von Willebrand disease, and

Whereas, prior to the 1960s, hemophilia often resulted in the crippling of children, and persons with this disease typically did not reach adulthood, and

Whereas, the development of factor concentrates derived from human blood enabled persons with hemophilia to inject themselves at home and live relatively normal lives, and

Whereas, despite this medical advancement, the blood that comprised the factor concentrates was not screened, and far too many individuals became infected with either Hepatitis C or HIV, and

Whereas, to increase public awareness of bleeding disorders, all six New England states and several statewide organizations in New England have established the New England Bleeding Disorders Advocacy Coalition (NEBDAC), and

Whereas, nationally, the Hemophilia Federation of America has designated March as Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month, and

Whereas, the NEBDAC hopes that this observance “will generate greater awareness and understanding of not only hemophilia, but all inheritable bleeding disorders, including von Willebrand disease,” as well as “foster a greater sense of community and shared purpose among individuals with all inheritable bleeding disorders,” now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes March as Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Kristi Clemens, the Vermont representative for NEBDAC.