

No. R-143. House concurrent resolution congratulating Alison Bechdel of Bolton on being named the third Vermont Cartoonist Laureate.

(H.C.R.109)

Offered by: Representatives Stevens of Waterbury, Wood of Waterbury, Buckholz of Hartford, Christie of Hartford, and Lucke of Hartford

Offered by: Senator Clarkson

Whereas, cartooning is a creative and colorful form of artistic expression appearing in newspapers, magazines, graphic novels, on the Internet, or as stand-alone works that can convey a cultural, political, or philosophical idea, or simply a lighthearted thought, and

Whereas, Alison Bechdel, one of America's most praised contemporary cartoonists, is originally from Pennsylvania and earned a degree in studio art and art history from Oberlin College, and

Whereas, after graduation, her first cartooning initiative was a series of single drawings that evolved into the multi-panel strip *Dykes to Watch Out For*, featuring a lesbian perspective on the American scene that was serialized in 50 alternative newspapers, and

Whereas, her graphic novel *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*, published in 2006, chronicled her childhood and realistically portrayed the unique idiosyncrasies of her parents, especially her father, and

Whereas, *Are You My Mother?*, a second graphic novel published in 2012, centered on her relationship with her mother, and

Whereas, both novels received wide praise in the literary press, including *Fun Home's* listing as a National Book Critics Circle Award finalist, and

Whereas, the academic, literary, and publishing communities have bestowed many honors on Alison Bechdel, including her serving as a Mellon Residential Fellow for Arts and Practice at the University of Chicago, the Comics Alliance's citing her as one of 12 women cartoonists deserving of lifetime recognition, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and in 2014, a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship, and

Whereas, in 2015, the Broadway musical based on *Fun Home* won multiple Tony Awards, including best musical, and

Whereas, the Center for Cartoon Studies originated the post of Vermont Cartoonist Laureate, and James Kochalka and Ed Koren have been so honored, and

Whereas, today, Thursday, April 6, 2017, Alison Bechdel is being appointed as Vermont's third Cartoonist Laureate, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Alison Bechdel of Bolton on being named the third Vermont Cartoonist Laureate, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Alison Bechdel and to the Center for Cartoon Studies.