

No. R-156. House concurrent resolution designating April 13, 2017 as Drug Overdose Awareness Day at the State House.

(H.C.R.122)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Whereas, substance use disorder and addiction is a lifelong, chronic illness, and opioid-related deaths in Vermont, including overdoses, have reached alarming levels, and

Whereas, a life cut short by an opioid overdose death is devastating for the family and loved ones left behind, and is a tragic reminder of the significant and complex challenges we face in communities throughout the State, and

Whereas, in Vermont, from 2010 to 2016, the total number of accidental and undetermined-manner opioid-related fatalities involving either a prescription drug, heroin, fentanyl, or a combination thereof rose from 41 to 106, and

Whereas, at the other end of the life spectrum, from 2009–2015, the rate per 1,000 live births to Vermont residents in Vermont hospitals of infants exposed to opioids rose from 22.6 to 34.0, and

Whereas, Vermont has a multifaceted, statewide approach that involves multiple State and community partners, including local governments, police and public safety officials, first responders, educators, nonprofit and faith-based organizations, and individuals, working to address opioid addiction and to reverse the increase in the incidence of opioid overdoses, and

Whereas, the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs within the Vermont Department of Health, in conjunction with partner organizations, has adopted SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment), “an evidence-based public health approach for identifying patients who use alcohol and other drugs at risky levels with the goal of reducing and preventing related health consequences,” and

Whereas, Vermonters working to reduce the incidence of opioid overdosing in the State are gathered at the State House today, April 13, 2017, to remind everyone of this important objective, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 13, 2017 as Drug Overdose Awareness Day at the State House, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Department of Health’s Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, the Governor’s Opiate Coordination Council, and the Vermont Recovery Network.