

**No. R-200. House concurrent resolution recognizing April 6, 2022 as Start by Believing Day in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.134)

Offered by: Representative Grad of Moretown

Offered by: Senator Ram Hinsdale

Whereas, in 2021, the member organizations of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence answered 15 percent more hotline calls than in 2020, and

Whereas, as few as one in five sexual assaults are reported to law enforcement, and less than three percent are criminally penalized, and

Whereas, sexual assault victims are more likely to inform a friend or family member, and these victims sustain additional physical and psychological harm when, all too often, the response is one of blame, doubt, or shame, and

Whereas, the Start by Believing public awareness campaign (an initiative of End Violence Against Women International) seeks to improve the responses of family members and friends to incidents of sexual assault, and

Whereas, the seventh annual Start by Believing Day, occurring on April 6, 2022, is an occasion dedicated to changing how we respond to sexual assaults, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes April 6, 2022 as Start by Believing Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.