

No. R-185. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of the occupational therapy profession.

(H.C.R.147)

Offered by: Representatives Sullivan of Burlington, Deen of Westminster, McCullough of Williston, O'Sullivan of Burlington, and Squirrell of Underhill

Whereas, in 1917, the Society for the Promotion of Occupational Therapy (now the American Occupational Therapy Association) was formed, establishing the new profession of occupational therapy, and

Whereas, occupational therapy is a wholistic health care profession, deeply rooted in science, that employs therapeutic occupations to restore functional independence for clients with developmental or acquired disabilities, and

Whereas, it addresses the cognitive, physical, psychosocial, sensory-perceptual, and other aspects of occupational performance for the purpose of promoting the physical and mental well-being of the client, and

Whereas, this type of therapy serves children, youths, and adults in many settings, including acute care and rehabilitation hospitals, clinics, individual homes, mental health facilities, schools and colleges, and the workplace, and

Whereas in fiscal year 2016, the Office of Professional Regulation's biennial renewal reported almost 400 licensed occupational therapists who practice in Vermont, and

Whereas, occupational therapy is a related service under Part B of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and

Whereas, Medicare and Medicaid both offer coverage for occupational therapy, and

Whereas, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 27 percent increase in the growth of occupational therapy positions between 2014 and 2024, and

Whereas, occupational therapists serve clients who have disabilities related to many physical and mental illnesses, and

Whereas, these therapists are pioneers in assisting in the modification of homes, schools, and work environments and in teaching new movement and adaptive skills to their clients, and

Whereas, occupational therapists enable persons of all ages to live life to its fullest, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 100th anniversary of the occupational therapy profession, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the American Occupational Therapy Association and to the Vermont Occupational Therapy Association.