

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

House Resolution

H.R. 9

House resolution designating April 25, 2011 as Genetic Equity Awareness Day

Offered by: Representatives Wizowaty of Burlington, Ancel of Calais, Bissonnette of Winooski, Bohi of Hartford, Burke of Brattleboro, Champion of Bennington, Christie of Hartford, Conquest of Newbury, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Deen of Westminster, Donovan of Burlington, Edwards of Brattleboro, Evans of Essex, Fisher of Lincoln, Frank of Underhill, French of Shrewsbury, Heath of Westford, Hooper of Montpelier, Jerman of Essex, Jewett of Ripton, Johnson of South Hero, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Klein of East Montpelier, Lanpher of Vergennes, Larson of Burlington, Lenes of Shelburne, Lippert of Hinesburg, Lorber of Burlington, Macaig of Williston, Marek of Newfane, Martin of Springfield, Masland of Thetford, McCullough of Williston, Miller of Shaftsbury, Mitchell of Barnard, Mrowicki of Putney, Munger of South Burlington, Partridge of Windham, Shand of Weathersfield, Till of Jericho, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Weston of Burlington, Woodward of Johnson and Yantachka of Charlotte

Whereas, all Vermonters enjoy a right to privacy inherent under the color of law, and

Whereas, one's genetic makeup represents a unique expression of individual personhood, and

Whereas, an individual's genetic information and material are the product of that specific individual and should be treated in accordance with the provision of Vermont's civil and criminal codes, and

Whereas, the House of Representatives recognizes the primacy of the individual in medical decision-making, and medical decision-making is the province of individuals working in concert with their health care providers and in consultation with their families, and

Whereas, the age of personalized medicine promises advances in the administration of health care services, and

Whereas, digitizing genetic profiles, genetic material, and genetic information permits greater ease in transmitting patient information, and reasonable safeguards are necessary to ensure that the transfer of genetic profiles, genetic material, and genetic information occurs within a legal framework which recognizes that unlawful and unauthorized breaches of personal health information constitute a real and growing threat to the well-being of all Vermonters, and

Whereas, the House of Representatives reaffirms that no class of persons shall be denied access to any public accommodation under state law and recognizes that the sequenced human genome was the product of a public-private partnership, and reasonable measures must be pursued to safeguard the current and future interests of all Vermont residents with respect to maintaining pathways to the information yielded through the mapping process, and

Whereas, there is a compelling public interest in policing products which materially rely on genetic material or information or both and which are neither insurance products nor medical devices, and

Whereas, the House of Representatives acknowledges the need to create clear and concise rules so as to affirm public confidence in genetics-related products and services as they emerge in a quickly evolving marketplace, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body designates April 25, 2011 as Genetic Equity Awareness Day, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Forum on Genetic Equity in Hull, Massachusetts.

Shapleigh Smith, Jr.
Speaker of the House

Attested to:

Donald G. Milne
Clerk, House of Representatives