

Journal of the Senate

MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022

The Senate was called to order by the President *pro tempore*.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Message from the House No. 61

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Melissa Kucserik, its First Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Madam President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has considered Senate proposal of amendment to House proposal of amendment to Senate bill of the following title:

S. 254. An act relating to recovering damages for Article 11 violations by law enforcement and a report on qualified immunity.

And has concurred therein.

The House has considered Senate proposals of amendment to the following House bills:

H. 266. An act relating to health insurance coverage for hearing aids.

H. 411. An act relating to the retrieval and use of covered wild animals.

H. 462. An act relating to miscellaneous Department of Health programs.

H. 505. An act relating to the creation of the Drug Use Standards Advisory Board within the Vermont Sentencing Commission.

H. 515. An act relating to banking, insurance, and securities.

H. 711. An act relating to the creation of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee and the Opioid Abatement Special Fund.

And has severally concurred therein.

Joint Resolution Referred**J.R.S. 53.**

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read the first time and is as follows:

By Senators Balint, Champion, Cummings, Hardy, Hooker and Lyons,

J.R.S. 53. Joint resolution supporting transgender youth and their parents who seek essential medical care for the treatment of gender dysphoria.

Whereas, Vermont values the transgender members of our community and has been a leader in establishing policies that prohibit discrimination based on gender identity, and

Whereas, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Medical Association, and other leading health authorities support best practice medical care for transgender youth, and

Whereas, patients, their parents, and their health care providers should decide what medical care is appropriate for a patient in accordance with current medical best practices, not politicians, and

Whereas, denying best practice medical care and support to transgender youth can be life-threatening and has been shown to contribute to depression, social isolation, self-hatred, risk of self-harm and suicidal behavior, and more, and

Whereas, more than a third of the 150,000 transgender youth 13 to 17 years of age in the United States live in the 15 states that have restricted or banned access to best practice medical care for transgender youth or are considering legislation to do so, and

Whereas, parents of transgender children, like all parents, simply want to do what is best for their child, and many such parents now face prosecution for child abuse in some jurisdictions for seeking best practice medical care for their transgender child as recommended by their health care provider, and

Whereas, Vermont recognizes the importance of letting transgender youth know that they are seen and valued for who they are, protected from stigmatizing policies that jeopardize their health and well-being, and supported by a community that wants to see them thrive, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly condemns the actions of states to ban best practice medical care for transgender youth and prosecute parents for seeking such essential care for their children, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the General Assembly shall explore all available options to ensure that transgender youth and their families are safe in Vermont to make the best medical care decisions for themselves in consultation with their health care providers.

Thereupon, the President, in her discretion, treated the joint resolution as a bill and referred it to the Committee on Health and Welfare.

Adjournment

At 1:15 P.M. in the afternoon and no quorum of the Senate having assembled, pursuant to Rule 9 of the Senate Rules, the Senate adjourned until ten o'clock in the forenoon on Tuesday, May 3, 2022.