

HR 42 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-3221

08/07

HOUSE RESOLUTION

42

A RESOLUTION honoring the life and legacy of Melissa Hortman.

SPONSORS: Rep. Simpson, Rock. 33; Rep. Wilhelm, Hills. 21; Rep. Wallner, Merr. 19; Rep. Weber, Ches. 5; Rep. Telerski, Hills. 11; Rep. Grote, Rock. 24; Rep. Ebel, Merr. 7; Rep. Hakken-Phillips, Graf. 12; Rep. Giasson, Hills. 29; Rep. Packard, Rock. 16; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21

COMMITTEE: Legislative Administration

ANALYSIS

This resolution honors the life and legacy of Melissa Hortman.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

A RESOLUTION honoring the life and legacy of Melissa Hortman.

1 Whereas, Melissa Anne Hortman, born May 27, 1970, in Fridley, Minnesota, was a dedicated
2 public servant and respected lawyer, whose life was defined by courage, integrity, and tireless
3 advocacy; and

4 Whereas, after earning a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and political science from Boston
5 University, a Juris Doctor from the University of Minnesota Law School, and a Master's in Public
6 Administration from Harvard Kennedy School, Ms. Hortman committed her skills and energies to
7 the people of Minnesota as a legislator; and

8 Whereas, Melissa Hortman was first elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 2004,
9 serving continuously through 2025 in various roles, including assistant majority leader, minority
10 whip, House speaker pro tempore, minority leader, and—most notably—as the 61st Speaker of the
11 Minnesota House of Representatives from 2019 to January 2025; and

12 Whereas, during her tenure, she championed a wide range of public policy initiatives, including
13 transportation improvements, public safety measures, access to health care, and thoughtful criminal
14 justice reform, earning respect across the aisle for her skill in negotiation and her steady leadership;
15 and

16 Whereas, Melissa Hortman was recognized for her strong moral conviction, her dedication to
17 fairness and inclusion, and her commitment to transparent and accountable governance that sought
18 to promote justice for all; and

19 Whereas, in June 2025, Ms. Hortman, along with her husband, was tragically assassinated in an
20 act of political violence, an event which shocked her community and the nation, and underscored the
21 profound loss of a leader who had lived in service to others; and

22 Whereas, her legacy—of public service, ethical leadership, and the values she upheld—continues
23 to inspire legislators, community leaders, and citizens alike; and

24 Whereas, this honorable body believes that her commitment to justice and the public good ought
25 to be formally recognized by the state of New Hampshire as we acknowledge the national loss and
26 her lifetime contributions to democracy; now, therefore, be it

27 Resolved, by the house of representatives of the state of New Hampshire:

28 That we hereby honor the life and legacy of Melissa A. Hortman, for her exemplary leadership
29 and service to her community and to the state of Minnesota, and by extension to the ideals that we
30 in New Hampshire and the nation hold dear.

31 That we extend our deepest condolences to her family, friends, colleagues, and all who were
32 touched by her kindness, wisdom, and public commitment.

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1 That we assert our support for peaceful and civil political discourse, and recommit to
2 safeguarding the institutions and democratic processes for which she stood.

3 That a copy of this resolution be transmitted by the house clerk to the family of Melissa Hortman
4 as a token of respect and solidarity.