

No. R-23. House concurrent resolution honoring John Nelson as a respected advocate for public education in Vermont.

(H.C.R.14)

Offered by: House Committee on Education

Offered by: Senate Committee on Education

Whereas, quiet, unassuming, but nonetheless a persuasive advocate, John Nelson has brought his legal wisdom and firsthand experience to the development and formulation of public education policy in this state, and

Whereas, as is most fitting for a leader in the world of education, John Nelson's career included time as a classroom teacher, and

Whereas, John Nelson learned of the issues and responsibilities confronting local school boards during his own membership on such a panel, and

Whereas, as an attorney, John Nelson understands the finer points of legal prose, and that clarity of language is the hallmark of an effective statute, and

Whereas, combining his background as an educator and attorney, John Nelson has served as an effective legal counsel at the department of education, and

Whereas, most recently, John Nelson has brought his knowledge and experience to the executive directorship of the Vermont School Boards Association, and

Whereas, in this role, he has been in the forefront of shaping major judicial decisions, legislative enactments, and administrative rules that are now the basis of Vermont's public education governance, and

Whereas, among the highlights of these efforts were his thoughtful contributions and recommendations in the drafting and enactment of Act 60 and Act 68, Vermont's education financing laws, and

Whereas, in 2005, he led the successful drive, culminating in Act 32, to assign the filling of midterm school board vacancies to school boards rather than to select boards, and

Whereas, more recently, John Nelson exerted effective leadership in the crafting of Act 153 of 2010 that established incentives for local school district consolidation as an alternative to the proposed forced merger of school districts, and

Whereas, John Nelson is now concluding his illustrious career as a lawyer and advocate for quality and locally centered public education, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors John Nelson as a respected advocate for public education in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to John Nelson.