

**No. R-54. House concurrent resolution designating February 8, 2017 as Farm to School Awareness Day at the State House.**

(H.C.R.34)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Whereas, 2007 Acts and Resolves No. 24 established the Rozo McLaughlin Farm-to-School Program (the program) “to improve the health and welfare of Vermont’s students” by establishing a grant program “for the purpose of helping Vermont schools develop relationships with local farmers,” and

Whereas, according to a report that the Center for Rural Studies prepared for the Vermont Farm to School Network, every dollar spent in Vermont schools on local food purchasing contributes an additional 60 cents to the local economy, and

Whereas, data from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets as of January 2016 recorded that the program was serving 120 schools and more than 30,000 students, and

Whereas, stated differently, Vermont Food Education Every Day (VT FEED) calculates that two-thirds of Vermont schools participate in some type of farm to school activities, and 95 percent of the farm food students eat originates in Vermont, and

Whereas, schools with farm to school programs have reported twice the national average for vegetable consumption, and

Whereas, the Department of Health reports that 12.4 percent of high school students are obese, too many others are overweight, and local schools’ farm to school participation can potentially lead to healthier diets and lower this disturbing adolescent health situation, and

Whereas, a continuing poor diet can lead to chronic disease and, in the long term, even death, and

Whereas, at the opposite end of the food spectrum, Hunger Free Vermont reports that 17 percent of Vermont children reside in food insecure homes and nutritious school meals can provide these youngsters critical nourishment, and

Whereas, today, February 8, 2017, participants in farm to school programs are visiting the State House to remind the General Assembly of farm to schools’ importance for both students and farmers, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates February 8, 2017 as Farm to School Awareness Day at the State House, and be it further

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