

No. R-73. House concurrent resolution designating February 25, 2015, as Teachers' Day at the State House.

(H.C.R.54)

Offered by: Representatives Donovan of Burlington, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Branagan of Georgia, Buxton of Tunbridge, Canfield of Fair Haven, Christie of Hartford, Clarkson of Woodstock, Condon of Colchester, Cupoli of Rutland City, Juskiewicz of Cambridge, Long of Newfane, Manwaring of Wilmington, Masland of Thetford, Miller of Shaftsbury, Sharpe of Bristol, Till of Jericho, Wright of Burlington, and Young of Glover

Whereas, the earliest laws in Vermont recognized the centrality of public education with the establishment of grand lists for financing this crucial societal endeavor, and

Whereas, public education has been a major force in the economic mobility of generations of Vermonters, and

Whereas, essential for ensuring the high quality of public education is the presence of outstanding teachers in the classroom, who inspire their students to study diligently and pursue all learning opportunities, and

Whereas, teachers in Vermont work in settings ranging from small rural schools to far larger urban educational institutions, and

Whereas, these instructors of our children have helped to elevate the stature of Vermont's public education system, and

Whereas, a perfect example of Vermont students' educational achievements is the State's fourth- and eighth-graders scoring among the best in the nation on the 2013 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) tests in reading and mathematics, and

Whereas, these same NAEP test results showed that if Vermont were an independent nation, our State's student achievement scores would rank among the best in the world, including seventh internationally in eighth-grade mathematics, and

Whereas, unfortunately, when governmental funding is strained, expenditures for public education are often reduced, to the detriment of students and our state's economic future, and

Whereas, today, February 25, 2015, members of the Vermont-NEA are visiting the State House to explain to legislators why public education is vital to our state's future and to talk of the need for a sufficient number of highly-qualified and fairly-compensated teachers and other educators in our State's classrooms, and

Whereas, preserving the future and vibrancy of the teaching profession should be of concern to all Vermonters, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates February 25, 2015, as Teachers' 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 the Vermont-NEA.