

No. R-100. House concurrent resolution recognizing the importance of after-school programs for the youth of Vermont.

(H.C.R.73)

Offered by: Representatives Mrowicki of Putney, Burke of Brattleboro, Clarkson of Woodstock, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Donovan of Burlington, Edwards of Brattleboro, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Haas of Rochester, Head of South Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lenex of Shelburne, Lippert of Hinesburg, Macaig of Williston, Martin of Springfield, Masland of Thetford, McCullough of Williston, Miller of Shaftsbury, Partridge of Windham, Pugh of South Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Sharpe of Bristol, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sweaney of Windsor, Till of Jericho, Toll of Danville, Trieber of Rockingham and Wizowaty of Burlington

Whereas, youngsters spend 1,000 hours a year in school but 5,000 in their communities, and how they use this time is critical to their academic, career, and personal development, and

Whereas, according to United States Department of Education studies, youths engaged in constructive pursuits, be they in schools or communities, are more likely to develop into productive adult citizens, and

Whereas, Vermont's 360 plus after-school programs annually serve over 20,000 children and youth, keeping them actively engaged outside the classroom through a wide range of innovative and engaging programs and learning opportunities which assist them in building a strong foundation for the future, and

Whereas, it is critical that children participate in safe, structured, and stimulating activities during the time of day that juvenile crime hits its peak, between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., and

Whereas, after-school programs provide Vermont with economic benefits through direct program-related job creation and in facilitating parents working productively during the after-school hours, and

Whereas, involving parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of Vermont's young people fosters better communities, and

Whereas, after-school programs also play a strong role in supporting families as effective partners in their children's education, and

Whereas leaders in the Vermont after-school community are continuously improving the quality of these programs and have created a video library of best practices in Vermont through the *Lights! Camera! Learning!* project, and

Whereas, today, February 23, 2011, is After-School Day at the State House, and program leaders, teachers, directors, advocates, and students are gathered in Montpelier to celebrate the continued success of after-school programs, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the importance of after-school programs for the youth of Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Center for Afterschool Excellence.