

No. R-158. House concurrent resolution designating Thursday, April 13, 2017 as Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs and the Vermont Youth Development Program Awareness Day.

(H.C.R.123)

Offered by: Representatives Pugh of South Burlington, Gamache of Swanton, Haas of Rochester, Keefe of Manchester, McFaun of Barre Town, Mrowicki of Putney, Noyes of Wolcott, Rosenquist of Georgia, and Troiano of Stannard

Whereas, the youths of Vermont will determine the future strength of our country and be the bearers of our democracy, and

Whereas, youths need safety, permanent connections, stable housing, and educational and employment opportunities to support their well-being so they are able to fill their roles as vital community members, and

Whereas, over 600 Vermont youths seek housing services every year through the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs, and

Whereas, there are over 300 youths 15–18 years of age in foster care every day, and 500 youths are supported by the Vermont Youth Development Program to transition successfully into young adulthood each year, and

Whereas, youths 12–25 years of age represent a vital stage of adolescent development and deserve resources that are appropriate for their unique needs, and

Whereas, youths can teach us what works best to support them, and it is vital to create opportunities for them to influence programming designed for them, and

Whereas, effective programs supporting youths who have run away, experienced homelessness, been housed precariously, or are aging out of Vermont's foster care system are a vital resource for our State's most vulnerable youths, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates Thursday, April 13, 2017 as Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs and the Vermont Youth Development Program Awareness Day, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs and the Vermont Youth Development Program.