

No. R-328. House concurrent resolution designating February 20, 2014 as Afterschool and Summer Learning Day at the State House.

(H.C.R.233)

Offered by: Representatives Mrowicki of Putney, Batchelor of Derby, Donahue of Northfield, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Haas of Rochester, Krowinski of Burlington, McFaun of Barre Town, Pugh of South Burlington, and Trieber of Rockingham

Whereas, the education proficiency gap between students from low-income households and other students is a significant problem, and

Whereas, studies have documented that students lose approximately two months of mathematics grade level equivalency each summer, and for students from low-income households, this annual knowledge loss extends to reading proficiency, and

Whereas, research has shown that up to two-thirds of the academic achievement gap between low-income and other students is attributable to unequal access to summer learning opportunities, and

Whereas, recent studies have demonstrated that consistent exposure to afterschool learning opportunities can narrow, and even eliminate, the mathematics achievement gap by the 5th grade, and

Whereas, more than 30,000 youths participate in Vermont's year-round afterschool and summer learning programs that offer innovative and engaging activities, and

Whereas, these programs offer students the opportunity to explore new ways of learning, to acquire new skills, and to form positive relationships with adults in the students' communities, and

Whereas, the afterschool and summer learning programs both complement and supplement classroom experiences, and the programs are conducted in close coordination with local schools, and

Whereas, through the outstanding work of Vermont Afterschool Inc., these academic activities are continuously improved to meet the latest best practices standards, and

Whereas, Vermont Afterschool Inc. offers professional development opportunities, including instruction in using individualized coaching models and participation in the STEM Learning Task Force, the Mentors for Quality Program, and an annual statewide conference, and

Whereas, today, February 20, 2014, educators, advocates, parents, and students are gathered at the State House to celebrate the success of afterschool and summer learning programs and to continue improving these important programs, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates February 20, 2014 as Afterschool and Summer Learning 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 Vermont Afterschool Inc.