

No. R-297. House concurrent resolution designating Wednesday, February 7, 2018 as Farm to School Awareness Day at the State House.

(H.C.R.237)

Offered by: Representatives Partridge of Windham, Bancroft of Westford, Botzow of Pownal, Burke of Brattleboro, Connor of Fairfield, Deen of Westminster, Emmons of Springfield, Grad of Moretown, LaClair of Barre Town, Lawrence of Lyndon, Mrowicki of Putney, Murphy of Fairfax, Myers of Essex, Pajala of Londonderry, Pearce of Richford, Pugh of South Burlington, Read of Fayston, Viens of Newport City, and Willhoit of St. Johnsbury

Whereas, 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 63, Sec. 1, in 6 V.S.A. § 4721, updated the Roza McLaughlin Farm-to-School Program (the program) “for the purpose of helping Vermont schools develop farm-to-school programs that will sustain relationships with local farmers and producers, enrich the educational experience of students, improve the health of Vermont children, and enhance Vermont’s agricultural economy,” and

Whereas, 26 percent of Vermont high school students are overweight or obese, but introducing younger children to the farm-to-school meals program can improve lifelong eating habits, 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 2018 recorded that the program was serving more than 45,000 students from 164 schools and 702 children from 15 early-care and education programs, 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 92 percent of Vermont schools serve locally grown food and 75 percent of Vermont schools have a school garden, and

Whereas, Hunger Free Vermont reports that one in seven Vermont children resides in food insecure homes, and nutritious school meals improve the diets of children residing in those homes, and

Whereas, healthy, nutritious food is vital to good brain development, and when children are well fed, their learning abilities improve, and

Whereas, today, February 7, 2018, participants in farm-to-school programs are visiting the State House to remind the General Assembly of these programs for both students and farmers, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates February 7, 2018 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.