

No. R-315. House concurrent resolution designating February 16, 2018 as After-school and Summer Learning Day at the State House.

(H.C.R.250)

Offered by: Representatives Lanpher of Vergennes, Burke of Brattleboro, Christie of Hartford, Miller of Shaftsbury, Mrowicki of Putney, and Pearce of Richford

Whereas, after-school and summer learning programs keep children and youths safe, inspire learning, create jobs, and help working families, and

Whereas, high-quality after-school and summer learning programs are typically based on collaborations of schools and community groups, libraries, organizations that serve youths, town governments, and local recreation departments, and

Whereas, because elementary and secondary school students are in school for less than 20 percent of their waking hours, after-school and summer learning programs can expand students' learning opportunities, and

Whereas, a group of Vermont youths has created a Youth Declaration of Rights stating that youths have a broad array of rights, including the right to: access free classes on basic life skills, equal opportunities and experiences in arts education, and time outdoors, and

Whereas, more than 24 percent of Vermont students in kindergarten through grade 12 participate in after-school programs, but 33 percent of those not enrolled would participate if a program were available, and

Whereas, after-school suppers and summer meals can be an important and nutritious part of these educational programs, and

Whereas, after-school and summer learning programs provide important work experience opportunities for high school youths, especially in Vermont's rural communities, and

Whereas, after-school science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs lead to students gaining an enhanced interest in science and improve their critical thinking skills, and a subset of STEM, known as tinkering, in which science, art, and technology intersect, has proven successful, and

Whereas, high-quality after-school programs can result in healthier lifestyles and improved educational results, and

Whereas, under the auspices of Vermont AfterSchool Inc, a public-private partnership dedicated to developing educational opportunities for youths beyond the school day, many advocates, educators, parents, and students involved in afterschool programs are gathered today, February 16, 2018, at the State House to celebrate their work and to continue learning about best practices for their respective programs, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates February 16, 2018 as After-school 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.