

No. R-370. House concurrent resolution congratulating Kristen Kelliher on becoming the youngest female to scale the highest points in each of the lower 48 states.

(H.C.R.257)

Offered by: Representatives Cheney of Norwich and Masland of Thetford

Offered by: Senators Campbell, McCormack and Nitka

Whereas, ascending on foot to the highest elevation in each of the lower 48 states is a challenging activity known as highpointing which enables the climber to view the American landscape from extraordinary and unusual vantage points, and

Whereas, until this past year, no female under the age of 18 had completed this emotionally rewarding feat, combining physical stamina and mental concentration, and

Whereas, the nine-year journey of Kristen Kelliher to ascend each of the nation's highest natural landmarks started during the summer between second and third grade when she ascended 7,000-foot Harney Peak in South Dakota, and

Whereas, by Halloween night in fifth grade, Kristen Kelliher had peak bagged, as the sport is also referred to, 11 of the 48 peaks, and by 2007, she had reached 42 of the 48 highpoints, and

Whereas, at that point, Kristen Kelliher decided to take a respite from her mountaineering adventures before attempting the most difficult destinations, including New York state's Mount Marcy in the Adirondacks, which she first attempted in the wintertime; Wyoming's Gannet Peak; Oregon's Mount Hood;

and perhaps the most technically formidable of all the highpoints, Mount Rainier in Washington State, which also required two ascents, and

Whereas, having hiked to the top of 47 of our nation's states, Kristin Kelliher saved the best for her September 2011 finale, climbing the Long Trail from Route 108 past Taft Lodge and up the rocky chin to the summit of Mount Mansfield where an enthusiastic throng of 35 supporters, including her mother, Mary Bender, who presented her then 17-year, four-month and 13-day-old daughter with a commemorative banner, and her stepfather, was present to applaud her grand accomplishment, and

Whereas, her long-sought goal was made possible with the encouraging support of her mother, who ascended 44 of the highpoints, and her stepfather, Bill Bender, who reached all the locations except Mount Rainier, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Kristen Kelliher on becoming the youngest female to scale the highest points in each of the lower 48 states, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Kristen Kelliher in Norwich.