

No. R-397. Senate concurrent resolution honoring Vermont Food Education Every Day (VT FEED) as an innovative partnership facilitating statewide farm to school programs emphasizing the importance of food and nutrition education for the health of our communities.

(S.C.R.47)

By the Committee on Agriculture,

Whereas, Vermont is a leader among those states that have established farm to school programs, which aim to put local food in local schools, and

Whereas, national media attention has focused on Vermont's holistic, statewide approach to achieving the three farm to school missions of getting healthier meals into school cafeterias, teaching children about agriculture and nutrition, and supporting local farmers through community involvement, and

Whereas, the success of Vermont's state and local farm to school programs is largely attributable to VT FEED, which Food Works at Two Rivers Center, Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont, and Shelburne Farms operate as a partnership, and

Whereas, VT FEED evolved from its organizing partners' deep belief that the growing disconnect from our land, our food, and our state's agricultural roots was neither healthful nor sustainable, and

Whereas, a corollary founding principle of VT FEED is that the disconnect between the food we consume and its source of origin could be solved through promoting the resurgence of local farms and increasing all children's equitable access to fresh healthy food, and

Whereas, this innovative partnership creates useful tools to help schools connect to farms and individual farmers in order to implement productive and mutually beneficial farm to school initiatives in this state, and

Whereas, with regard to nutrition education, VT FEED provides technical assistance to schools, to food service staff, to teachers, and to communities and conducts courses and regional workshops around the state, and

Whereas, now in its tenth year of fulfilling its important mission, VT FEED has worked with more than one-third of Vermont's schools to create robust and viable farm to school programs in local communities, and

Whereas, VT FEED is inspiring students and those in the wider community to value wholesome, local foods and to make healthy food choices, and

Whereas, at a time when state budget cuts will reduce funds for farm-related activities and threaten the continued success of VT FEED's role in helping our farmers provide food to local schools and improving child nutrition, it is critical to recognize the central role this partnership plays in persuading Vermont children to adopt healthy eating habits and in the promotion of local food sales for Vermont's farmers, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors VT FEED as an innovative partnership facilitating farm to school programs, including its efforts to enhance food and nutrition education, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each of the VT FEED partners.