

No. R-343. House concurrent resolution designating February 29, 2012 as Afterschool, Summer, and Expanded Learning Day at the State House.

(H.C.R.273)

Offered by: Representatives Mrowicki of Putney, Bissonnette of Winooski, Botzow of Pownal, Christie of Hartford, Consejo of Sheldon, Frank of Underhill, French of Shrewsbury, French of Randolph, Head of South Burlington, Heath of Westford, Hooper of Montpelier, Jerman of Essex, Jewett of Ripton, Krebs of South Hero, Lenex of Shelburne, Lippert of Hinesburg, Macaig of Williston, Malcolm of Pawlet, Manwaring of Wilmington, Martin of Springfield, Martin of Wolcott, Masland of Thetford, McCullough of Williston, Mook of Bennington, Moran of Wardsboro, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Peltz of Woodbury, Potter of Clarendon, Pugh of South Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Stevens of Waterbury, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sweaney of Windsor, Trieber of Rockingham, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Wilson of Manchester, Wizowaty of Burlington, Yantachka of Charlotte and Young of Glover

Whereas, it is society's job to ensure that our young people have access to a full range of educational opportunities and enriching learning experiences throughout their childhood, and

Whereas, when young people have opportunities to be positively engaged in their schools and communities, they are more likely to become productive citizens and leaders, and

Whereas, Vermont's afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs serve more than 20,000 young persons annually through a wide range of innovative and engaging opportunities, and

Whereas, children spend, on average, 1,000 hours a year in school but 5,000 in their communities and with their families, and United States Department of Education studies document that youths who are engaged in constructive pursuits during their free time are more likely than those who are not to

develop skills and competencies that promote a successful transition to adulthood, and

Whereas, these innovative, extracurricular, and educational programs provide young persons with new learning opportunities, and having adult supervision and a constructive activity are important for the afternoon hours and over the summer, and

Whereas, students gain valuable academic assistance from afterschool and summer learning programs which research has shown can be effective at overcoming summer learning loss, narrowing the achievement gap between low- and high-income youngsters, and improving high school graduation rates, and

Whereas, afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs for older youth, including teen centers, provide substance-free spaces, connections with mentors and caring adults, and opportunities to develop leadership skills; establish healthy relationships; and provide college and career readiness activities, and

Whereas, these programs create jobs by making it possible for parents to be employed without worrying about the care or safety of their children during the afterschool or summer hours, and

Whereas, the Vermont Center for Afterschool Excellence continues to improve the quality and expand the availability of these educationally creative and societally nurturing programs throughout the state, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates February 29, 2012 as Afterschool, Summer, and Expanded 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 the Vermont Center for Afterschool Excellence.