

No. R-30. House concurrent resolution designating January 2017 as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont.

(H.C.R.16)

Offered by: Representatives Long of Newfane, Sibia of Dover, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Botzow of Pownal, Brumsted of Shelburne, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Colburn of Burlington, Conlon of Cornwall, Cupoli of Rutland City, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donovan of Burlington, Gannon of Wilmington, Hebert of Vernon, Jessup of Middlesex, Jickling of Brookfield, LaLonde of South Burlington, McCoy of Poultney, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington, Murphy of Fairfax, Ode of Burlington, Olsen of Londonderry, Partridge of Windham, Potter of Clarendon, Stevens of Waterbury, Toleno of Brattleboro, Townsend of South Burlington, Viens of Newport City, Weed of Enosburgh, and Willhoit of St. Johnsbury

Whereas, the elected citizen members of Vermont's school boards are extremely dedicated public servants, and

Whereas, school board members devote countless hours to overseeing all local jurisdictional aspects of public education in Vermont and, at most, receive token monetary compensation, and

Whereas, they tackle education policy issues that are of enormous concern to school administrators, teachers, parents, students, and the citizenry at large, and

Whereas, certain matters confronting school boards may resonate strongly with a specific constituency—for example, whether a particular high school course will be offered or a varsity sport played, and

Whereas, school board members must occasionally decide potentially sensitive and divisive questions, such as whether to continue the tenure of a teacher, principal, or superintendent, and the individual whose job is in question may have both strong supporters and strong opponents, and

Whereas, although they are not the originators of State education laws and administrative directives, these locally selected public officials may experience public criticism regarding Vermont's education policies, and

Whereas, since the passage of 2015's Act 46, school board service has become more challenging, as it involves deliberations to determine the future composition of the State's school districts and boards, and

Whereas, school board members have labored with their communities many additional nights and weekends, since Act 46 was enacted, to consider how to improve the educational opportunities for their students, and

Whereas, in facing these difficult and possibly conflicting demands, school board members receive far too little praise for their public service, and

Whereas, a number of states and local communities throughout the country observe January as School Board Recognition Month in order to honor the special work of school boards, and this honor to Vermont's school boards and their members is well deserved, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates January 2017 as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont School Boards Association in Montpelier.