

No. R-253. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2011 Essex High School *We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution* Vermont championship team.

(H.C.R.96)

Offered by: Representatives Jerman of Essex, Evans of Essex, Myers of Essex, Waite-Simpson of Essex and Heath of Westford

Whereas, in order to encourage the study of the United States Constitution among high school students, the Center for Civic Education conducts the annual nationwide *We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution* competition that starts with the creation of individual school teams which compete in their respective states, and

Whereas, in 2011, the Vermont finals were conducted in the committee rooms and legislative chambers of the state house, and

Whereas, as in other participating states, the Vermont students took part in mock congressional hearings where they were closely queried on their understanding of the United States Constitution, and

Whereas, the students demonstrate their constitutional mastery not simply through a recitation of specific clauses but by applying the Constitution to specific historic and contemporary issues and defending positions on these matters based on constitutional principles, and

Whereas, the expert panels judging the students' constitutional knowledge include legal professionals and academics who specialize in constitutional topics, and

Whereas, the judges determined that the 2011 Vermont *We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution* winning team was from Essex High School, and

Whereas, the Essex High School students devoted many hours to preparing for their state house competition, and

Whereas, the 26 students who worked with great effort to achieve this special academic honor include Ryan Agan, Taylor Amato, Miranda Axworthy, Sam Blakely, Maya Boyle, Callie Braceras, Bethany Clark, Jacob DeBolt, Calle Emanuelsson, Brian Evans, Ben Ferris, Andrew Goss, Blaize Hall, Joanna Kamhi, Erin Maguire, Shannon McCullen, Clare Murphy, Abigail Nash, Bess Onegow, Sebastian Otto-Meyer, Seamus Page, Sam Schonberg, Amelia Seman, Ryan Shields, Maura Willey, and Paige Wood, and their outstanding instructor Timothy Root guided them through the process, and

Whereas, these students are now preparing to compete in the national competition in Washington, D.C., now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulate the 2011 Essex High School *We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution* Vermont championship team and wish the students the best of success in Washington, D.C., and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Essex High School.