

No. R-375. House concurrent resolution honoring the youth education program of Unbound Grace-Sentinel Farms.

(H.C.R.270)

Offered by: Representatives Spengler of Colchester, Fisher of Lincoln, and Sharpe of Bristol

Offered by: Senators Ayer and Bray

Whereas, Unbound Grace is a nonprofit organization with an overall mission “to provide the community with health-centered activities rooted in the ideals of sustainable agriculture, the arts, and classical horsemanship, where individuals of all ages are encouraged to find and share their gifts, talents, and passions,” and

Whereas, the special focus of Unbound Grace is to offer a healthy and sustainable life’s path for Vermont youth in preparation for their turbulent high school years, and

Whereas, a guiding principle of Unbound grace is a belief that the “common sense prudence of investing in prevention is rooted in our traditional Vermont agricultural values of good stewardship and binds us to our fiscal and ethical responsibility to invest our most precious resources rightly,” and

Whereas, this prevention agenda of Unbound Grace is realized through an inspiring summer youth camp conducted at Sentinel Farms in Starksboro under the leadership of the organization’s president, Kerry Kurt, and

Whereas, campers’ unique experience at Sentinel Farms starts as early as 6:30 a.m. and lasts until nearly dark, and

Whereas, they are taught an appreciation for nature, physical activity, including horsemanship, artistic forms of expression, and working together for everyone’s mutual benefit and personal growth, and

Whereas, this schedule of healthy and productive life activities has attracted campers who become enthusiastic proponents for a lifestyle that deters them from the societal pitfalls that can damage young lives, and

Whereas, Unbound Grace hopes to expand its summer camping activities into a year-round schedule with the addition of an indoor riding facility, and

Whereas, today, March 18, 2014, the youth of Unbound Grace-Sentinel Farms will be visiting the State House to speak to members of the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare as part of their Youth Voices 2014, Mutual Learning Campaign, and

Whereas, their presentations are intended to explain “how to keep kids away from falling into life-threatening experimentation with opiates and heroin and other risky behaviors,” now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the youth education program of Unbound Grace-Sentinel Farms, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Kerry Kurt, president of Unbound Grace.