

State of Vermont Senate Chamber



Montpelier, Vermont Senate Concurrent Resolution

By Senators Doyle, Cummings, and Pollina,

By Representative Ancel of Calais,

S.C.R. 19. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Beth Downing on her selection as a Teacher Appreciation Week recipient of a "courage" telephone call from U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

Whereas, in 1984, the National Parent Teacher Association established the first full week in May as Teacher Appreciation Week, and

Whereas, as a commemoration of Teacher Appreciation Week, the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) places courage telephone calls to thank teachers for their contributions to educating the nation's children, and

Whereas, the initiators of these pleasant and uplifting telephone conversations are usually Department staff members, but special honorees receive a call directly from the U.S. Secretary of Education, and

Whereas, the courage call recipients are selected from a list of nominees, and

Whereas, the criteria for nomination is being a teacher who "has gone above and beyond and might not normally be recognized for his or her work," and

Whereas, Calais Elementary School music teacher, Steve Owens, nominated his faculty colleague, Beth Downing, a pre-school teacher with 40 years of classroom experience, and

Whereas, Steve Owens described his colleague as a person "who embodies what we want every 3 and 4 year old to have as a teacher," and

Whereas, his nomination continued, "If every child had a teacher like her in preschool, our nation would be infinitely richer," and further stated she is amazing, and

Whereas, the Department was so impressed with Beth Downing's nomination, it was decided U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan would place this special courage call, and

Whereas, Vermont is one of 18 states to which the Department has awarded an Early Living Challenge grant, making Secretary Duncan's courage call especially timely, and

Whereas, this courage call was an especially memorable event for Beth Downing and Calais Elementary School, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Beth Downing on her selection as a Teacher Appreciation Week recipient of a courage telephone call from U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Beth Downing and to Calais Elementary School.