

No. R-330. House concurrent resolution designating Thursday, March 1, 2018 as Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs and Vermont Youth Development Program Awareness Day.

(H.C.R.265)

Offered by: Representatives Haas of Rochester, Gamache of Swanton, Keefe of Manchester, Mrowicki of Putney, Noyes of Wolcott, Pajala of Londonderry, Pugh of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, and Wood of Waterbury

Whereas, the youths of Vermont will determine the future strength of our country and be the bearers of our democracy, and

Whereas, youths need safety, permanent connections, stable housing, and educational and employment opportunities to support their well-being so they are able to fill their essential roles as vital community members, and

Whereas, more than 450 Vermont youths sought housing support during fiscal year 2017 through the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs, and

Whereas, the Vermont Youth Development Program supported nearly 500 youths transitioning successfully into young adulthood each year, and

Whereas, youths 12 to 25 years of age are in a vital stage of adolescent development and deserve resources that are appropriate for their unique needs, and

Whereas, youths can teach us what works best to support them, and it is important to create opportunities for them to influence programming designed for them, and

Whereas, effective programs supporting youths who have run away, experienced homelessness, been housed precariously, or who are aging out of Vermont's foster care system are a crucial resource for our State's most vulnerable youths, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates Thursday, March 1, 2018 as Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs and Vermont Youth Development Program Awareness Day, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs and the Vermont Youth Development Program.