

**No. R-355. House concurrent resolution designating March 2018 as Older Vermonters Nutrition Month.**

(H.C.R.283)

Offered by: Representatives Wood of Waterbury, Ainsworth of Royalton, Ancel of Calais, Bancroft of Westford, Bartholomew of Hartland, Baser of Bristol, Batchelor of Derby, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Belaski of Windsor, Beyor of Highgate, Bissonnette of Winooski, Bock of Chester, Botzow of Pownal, Brennan of Colchester, Briglin of Thetford, Browning of Arlington, Brumsted of Shelburne, Buckholz of Hartford, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carr of Brandon, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christensen of Weathersfield, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Colburn of Burlington, Condon of Colchester, Conlon of Cornwall, Connor of Fairfield, Conquest of Newbury, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Corcoran of Bennington, Cupoli of Rutland City, Dakin of Colchester, Deen of Westminster, Devereux of Mount Holly, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donahue of Northfield, Donovan of Burlington, Dunn of Essex, Emmons of Springfield, Fagan of Rutland City, Feltus of Lyndon, Fields of Bennington, Forguites of Springfield, Frenier of Chelsea, Gage of Rutland City, Gamache of Swanton, Gannon of Wilmington, Gardner of Richmond, Giambatista of Essex, Gonzalez of Winooski, Grad of Moretown, Graham of Williamstown, Haas of Rochester, Harrison of Chittenden, Head of South Burlington, Hebert of Vernon, Helm of Fair Haven, Higley of Lowell, Hill of Wolcott, Hooper of Montpelier, Hooper of Randolph, Houghton of Essex, Howard of Rutland City, Jessup of Middlesex, Jickling of Randolph, Johnson of South Hero, Joseph of North Hero, Juskiewicz of Cambridge, Keefe of Manchester, Keenan of St. Albans City, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Krowinski of Burlington, LaClair of Barre Town, LaLonde of South Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lefebvre of Newark, Lewis of Berlin, Lippert of Hinesburg, Long of Newfane, Lucke of Hartford, Macaig of Williston, Marcotte of Coventry, Martel of Waterford, Masland of Thetford, Mattos of Milton, McCormack of Burlington, McCoy of Poultney, McCullough of Williston, McFaun of Barre Town, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Murphy of Fairfax, Myers of Essex, Nolan of Morristown, Norris of Shoreham, Noyes of Wolcott, Ode of Burlington, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Pajala of Londonderry, Parent of St. Albans Town, Partridge of Windham, Pearce of Richford, Poirier of Barre City, Potter of Clarendon, Pugh of South Burlington, Quimby of Concord, Rachelson of Burlington, Read of Fayston, Rosenquist of Georgia, Savage of Swanton, Scheu of Middlebury, Scheuermann of Stowe, Sharpe of Bristol, Shaw of Pittsford, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sibia of Dover, Smith of Derby, Smith of New Haven, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, Strong of Albany, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Dorset, Sullivan of Burlington, Taylor of Colchester, Terenzini of Rutland Town, Tillof Jericho, Toleno of Brattleboro, Toll of Danville, Townsend of South Burlington, Trieber of Rockingham, Troiano of Stannard, Turner of Milton, Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh, Viens of Newport City, Walz of Barre City, Webb of Shelburne, Weed of Enosburgh, Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, Wright of Burlington, Yacovone of Morristown, Yantachka of Charlotte, and Young of Glover

Whereas, on March 22, 1972, President Richard Nixon signed Pub. L. No. 92-258, amending the Older Americans Act of 1965 and establishing nutrition programs for persons 60 years of age and older, and

Whereas, in 2002, Meals on Wheels America established the “March for Meals” campaign to recognize the historic significance of the Older Americans Act’s nutrition programs and to highlight the important issue of senior hunger in this country, and

Whereas, isolation and loneliness contribute to higher rates of chronic health conditions and admission to nursing homes and emergency rooms; and over 40,000 older Vermonters are isolated and living alone and over 20,000 live in food insecure homes, and

Whereas, 33 percent of older Americans admitted to the hospital may suffer from malnutrition and 50 percent living in the community may be malnourished, and

Whereas, volunteers delivering a healthy meal offer a warm smile, a safety check, improve seniors’ quality of life, and provide critical support that keeps seniors in their own homes, and

Whereas, older Americans remaining at home, and out of hospitals and nursing homes, save billions of dollars in Medicare and Medicaid costs, and

Whereas, congregate meals, provided in senior centers and dining halls, offer older Americans the opportunity to enjoy a nutritious meal with their peers and neighbors, and

Whereas, in 2017, the Older Americans Act’s nutrition programs served a total of 15,372 Vermonters, 4,715 at home and 10,657 in congregate settings; and they were served a total of 1,170,781 meals of which 785,086 were home-delivered and 385,695 were offered in congregate settings, and

Whereas, as the size of Vermont’s older population continues to increase, it is essential that no Vermonter goes hungry, and

Whereas, the Older Americans Act’s nutrition programs are helping to decrease the prevalence of hunger and malnutrition among older Vermonters, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates March 2018 as Older Vermonters Nutrition Month, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Association of the Area Agencies on Aging.