

**No. R-47. House concurrent resolution designating Wednesday, February 6, 2019 as Farm-to-School Awareness Day at the State House.**

(H.C.R.35)

Offered by: Representative Hooper of Randolph

Whereas, Hunger Free Vermont reports that 15 percent of the State's children under 18 years of age live in food-insecure households, and

Whereas, this stark reality places great importance on elementary and secondary schools providing students opportunities to eat nutritious meals, and

Whereas, 2007 Acts and Resolves No. 24 established the Rozo McLaughlin Farm-to-School Program "to award local grants for the purpose of helping Vermont schools develop relationships with local farmers and producers," and

Whereas, the Rozo McLaughlin Farm-to-School Program enables elementary and secondary students to eat healthy foods, establishes partnerships between Vermont's farmers and local schools that are economically advantageous to the agricultural community, and introduces a new and healthy culinary culture into the State's school cafeterias, and

Whereas, according to a report that the Center for Rural Studies and the Department of Community Development and Applied Economics at the University of Vermont prepared with the Vermont Farm to School Network, every dollar spent in Vermont's schools on local food contributes an additional 60 cents to the local economy, and

Whereas, data from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets documented that, between 2007 and 2018, the program had served over 65,000 students and children, affecting 163 schools and 22 child care programs, and

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm to School Census found that schools participating in farm-to-school programs reported twice the national average in vegetable consumption, and

Whereas, according to the Vermont Department of Health, consuming a poor diet is one of three behaviors that lead to four categories of disease that result in more than 50 percent of the deaths in Vermont: cancer, heart diseases and stroke, type 2 diabetes, and lung disease, and

Whereas, students who are involved in farm-to-school programs improve their immediate dietary routine and learn the importance of practicing healthy nutritional habits for the long term, and

Whereas, the Rozo McLaughlin Farm-to-School Program participants are visiting the State House today to remind legislators of its important economic and nutritional benefits, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates February 6, 2019 as Farm-to-School Awareness Day at the State House, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to VT FEED.