

**No. R-227. House concurrent resolution honoring the Chester Andover Elementary School fourth graders who drafted thoughtful State legislative proposals.**

(H.C.R.188)

Offered by: Representatives Bock of Chester, Bartholomew of Hartland, Fegard of Berkshire, Norris of Shoreham, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Partridge of Windham, and Strong of Albany

Offered by: Senators Clarkson, McCormack, Nitka, and Pearson

Whereas, the fourth-grade class at Chester Andover Elementary School desired to express its concern on issues of great importance through a project proposing State legislation that could be introduced in the General Assembly, and

Whereas, each student wrote a personal letter to the member from Chester, advocating for a bill on a selected issue, and

Whereas, one student, seeing the amount of food wasted in the school's cafeteria, proposed that schools should save leftovers and donate them to homeless people, enabling them to "have a full belly and be healthier," in the belief that their improved physical condition would preclude them from "sleeping on the streets," and

Whereas, four students proposed that animal shelters be prohibited from killing animals, writing: "Vermonters don't just need people, they need pets too," it would give shelter "animals a second chance," "it would save tons of animals," "people can train the dogs to help to be guide dogs," and "you can give the cats to people who do not have enough company," and

Whereas, seven students suggested legislation banning plastic bags and straws, citing the harm they can inflict on animals and the environment, and

Whereas, the students advocated for this ban because "turtles think plastic bags are jellyfish and they eat the bag," "animals are choking on them," "straws get stuck in animals' noses and they die," the bags and straws "sit in a landfill and take 10–1000 years to decompose," and most globally and poignantly, "plastic might help us, but it doesn't help the earth," and

Whereas, the students learned first-hand about the lawmaking process, and

Whereas, these thoughtful Chester Andover Elementary School fourth graders, who also visited the State House to discuss their ideas with their local representative, included Ava Crawford, Kaylee DeBartolo, Andrew Goyette, Madison Gramling, Kaiden McCarthy, Mason Parker, Morgan Reed, Callie Spaulding, Madelyn Spires, Caden Spittle, Elijah Tyrrell, and Sofia Elisa Wakayama; and their teacher, Kathleen Cherubini, is to be commended for her implementation of this educational initiative, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the Chester Andover Elementary School fourth graders who drafted thoughtful State legislative proposals, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Chester Andover Elementary School.