

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 167

House concurrent resolution congratulating Riley Allen on her selection as a 2018 Freedom & Unity Youth Film Contest first-place award winner

Offered by: Representatives Houghton of Essex, Bancroft of Westford, Giambatista of Essex, Myers of Essex, and Redmond of Essex

Whereas, Essex High School senior Riley Allen is a cinematically talented young woman whose film, *Freefall: The Opioid and Heroin Epidemic in Vermont*, examines the drug addiction crisis confronting our State, and

Whereas, noticing Essex High School students “using gateway drugs” and hearing her father, an intensive care unit pulmonologist, express dismay at his overdose cases inspired this filmmaking project, and

Whereas, she interviewed health care professionals, including the Burlington Police Department’s opioid policy manager, who explained that drug addiction “is a chronic health disease,” and

Whereas, Riley Allen submitted her film, which also served as her senior-year capstone project, to the 2018 Freedom & Unity Youth Film Contest, and the impressed judges awarded the film first-place honors in the High School Division of the Vermont History and Contemporary Issues category, and

Whereas, separately, the Vermont Film Institute awarded Riley Allen a one-year mentorship with a documentary filmmaker, and

Whereas, the film was presented at two film festivals, in an abbreviated form on Vermont PBS, and more recently at Essex High School, where a panel discussion examining Vermont’s opioid crisis followed the film’s presentation, and

Whereas, Riley Allen, who has been honored as a Vermont Presidential Scholar, will attend Quinnipiac University and hopes to pursue a filmmaking career, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Riley Allen on her selection as a 2018 Freedom & Unity Youth Film Contest first-place award winner and wishes her every future success, and be it further

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