

No. R-27. House concurrent resolution designating February 12, 2025 as Farm to School and Child Awareness Day at the State House.

(H.C.R.22)

Offered by Representatives Cole of Hartford, Bartholomew of Hartland, Bishop of Colchester, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Brady of Williston, Branagan of Georgia, Burke of Brattleboro, Burt of Cabot, Cina of Burlington, Conlon of Cornwall, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Critchlow of Colchester, Dodge of Essex, Donahue of Northfield, Duke of Burlington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Eastes of Guilford, Goldman of Rockingham, Greer of Bennington, Harvey of Castleton, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Randolph, Kimbell of Woodstock, Lalley of Shelburne, Lipsky of Stowe, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Mihaly of Calais, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrow of Weston, Nelson of Derby, Nugent of South Burlington, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Satcowitz of Randolph, Sibilia of Dover, Surprenant of Barnard, Toof of St. Albans Town, and Waszazak of Barre City

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 and Early Childhood Grant Program enables early childhood, elementary, and secondary students to eat healthy foods, and it establishes partnerships between Vermont’s farmers and local schools that contribute to the economic sustainability of the Vermont agricultural community, and

Whereas, the Vermont Farm to School & Early Childhood Network reports that 89 percent of the State’s schools purchase locally produced food, 56 percent of early childhood programs serve locally produced food at least once a week, and over 100 farms are selling their produce to schools and early childhood programs, and

Whereas, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has documented that most school children receive half their daily calories from school meals, and

Whereas, pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1264(a)(1)(A), all students in Vermont are eligible for universal school meals and 16 V.S.A. § 1264(a) codified the Local Food Incentive Grant Program, which serves as a “direct financial incentive to school districts and supervisory unions that meet local purchasing targets in their school meal programs,” and

Whereas, Farm-to-School exposes students to careers in agriculture and food systems, enabling them to envision a personal future in Vermont, and

Whereas, Rozo McLaughlin Farm-to-School Program participants are speaking with legislators today to share the Program’s personal importance for them and the value of the corresponding Farm to Early Childhood program for their younger siblings, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates February 12, 2025 as Farm to School and Child 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 the Vermont Farm to School & Early Childhood Network.