

No. R-63. House concurrent resolution recognizing March 2025 as National Senior Nutrition Program Month in Vermont.

(H.C.R.47)

Offered by Representative Noyes of Wolcott

Whereas, approximately 28 percent of Vermont's population is 60 years of age or older, and according to the Vermont Foodbank, the threat of hunger confronts 12 percent of older Vermonters, and

Whereas, on March 22, 1972, President Richard Nixon signed Public Law 92-258, an amendment to the Older Americans Act of 1965, that established the national Senior Nutrition Program for older Americans, and

Whereas, the impetus for the national Senior Nutrition Program was the recognition that persons in this age group may not eat adequately due to a lack of finances, an inability to prepare nourishing meals, limited mobility, and feelings of loneliness, and

Whereas, in Vermont, the national Senior Nutrition Program is administered through the State Unit on Aging at the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and the area agencies on aging, and

Whereas, Meals on Wheels is a key element of the national Senior Nutrition Program through its provision of nutritious meals, safety checks, and friendly visits to those at risk of hunger and isolation, and

Whereas, in 2024, 42 Meals on Wheels providers delivered 986,662 nutritious home-delivered meals to thousands of older Vermonters, greatly improving their daily physical and emotional lives, and

Whereas, Meals on Wheels is an important component of Age Strong VT, a 10-year program designed to make Vermont "a great place for all ages and stages of life," and

Whereas, each March, the federal Administration for Community Living celebrates the establishment of the national Senior Nutrition Program, and the theme for 2025 is "A Place at the Table," "[recognizing] the importance of local nutrition programs and the meals being served across the country," *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes March 2025 as National Senior Nutrition Program Month in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and the Vermont Association of Senior Centers and Meal Providers.