

No. R-125. House concurrent resolution congratulating Phoenix Newell on winning two consecutive Vermont State Spelling Bees.

(H.C.R.101)

Offered by Representatives Campbell of St. Johnsbury and Dolan of Essex Junction

Offered by Senator Ingalls

Whereas, spelling correctly is both an art and a science, requiring the knowledge of the English language's grammatical rules and the innumerable exceptions to every spelling convention, and

Whereas, the challenge of spelling complex words correctly is tested in individual schools, states, and nationally through students' participation in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, a venerable scholastic tradition, and 2025 marks the competition's centennial, and

Whereas, Phoenix Newell, a seventh grader at the Riverside School in Lyndonville, has, for two consecutive years, exhibited a passion and a special talent for mastering the nuances of spelling a sophisticated lexicon of words, and

Whereas, after innumerable hours of study and memorization, Phoenix Newell, then a sixth grader, advanced through numerous rounds of school competition to earn the opportunity to represent the Riverside School at the 2024 Vermont State Spelling Bee, at which she out-spelled all the other contestants and was declared the champion, and

Whereas, this singular achievement entitled Phoenix Newell to advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee final in Washington, DC, and

Whereas, despite her best effort, Phoenix Newell was not recognized as the 2024 national spelling champion, but the excitement and thrill of being part of this nationwide contest motivated her to try again as a seventh grader, and

Whereas, in 2025, Phoenix Newell's determination, patience, and academic stamina all contributed to her distinctive success in winning a second consecutive Vermont State Spelling Bee, and she eagerly anticipates returning to our nation's capital for her second appearance at the Scripps National Spelling Bee, this time as a more experienced contender, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Phoenix Newell on winning two consecutive Vermont State Spelling Bees, *and be it further*

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