

**No. R-160. House concurrent resolution congratulating Mapenzi Selemani of Winooski on winning the 2025 Poetry Out Loud Vermont State championship and commemorating the 20th anniversary of Poetry Out Loud.**

(H.C.R.136)

Offered by Representatives Berbeco of Winooski and Tomlinson of Winooski

*Whereas*, Poetry Out Loud is a nationwide high school poetry recitation competition that receives national support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, and locally, the Vermont Arts Council and the Flynn in Burlington are essential facilitators, and

*Whereas*, high school students across the country participate in a dynamic poetry recitation competition “that is designed to improve their public speaking skills, help build confidence, and teach them about literary history and contemporary life,” and

*Whereas*, since Poetry Out Loud began, more than 4.5 million students in the United States from 21,000 schools, and with the support of 85,000 teachers, have participated, and

*Whereas*, this year’s State competition proved an exhilarating adventure, highlighting the joys of dramatically reciting a poet’s written words, and

*Whereas*, this nationwide cavalcade of poetic verbalization begins in local classrooms, 24 in Vermont this year, where eager young orators, 3,200 in the State and 157,000 nationwide, declaimed their soliloquies of poems or sonnets, and

*Whereas*, the judges at the State finals listened with rapt attention and declared Mapenzi Selemani, a junior at Winooski High School, who presented Thomas Hood’s “I Remember, I Remember” and William Wordsworth’s “The World is Too Much With Us”, as the 2025 Poetry Out Loud Vermont State champion and Vermont’s representative at the national competition, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly congratulates Mapenzi Selemani of Winooski on winning the 2025 Poetry Out Loud Vermont State championship and commemorates the 20th anniversary of Poetry Out Loud, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Mapenzi Selemani, the Flynn, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and the Vermont Arts Council.