No. R-329. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Colchester High School State championship debate team.

(H.C.R.271)

Offered by Representatives Bartley of Fairfax, Austin of Colchester, Bishop of Colchester, Critchlow of Colchester, and Pezzo of Colchester

Whereas, successful debaters must thoroughly research the topic, develop a comprehensive command of the facts, strategically and carefully insert a tad of witticism at the appropriate moment, and always respond to the opponent's contradicting arguments, confidently but not antagonistically, and

Whereas, this year's Vermont State debate championship was held on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at Champlain Valley Union High School, and the eager student debaters were assigned the topic, "Should the federal government ban corporations from buying single-family homes?", and

Whereas, the students representing Colchester High School at this culminating event in the school year's debate schedule were the team's able cocaptains, Ariana Riedinger and Naomi Shpaner, who consistently demonstrated why they were selected for these positions, and

Whereas, Colchester's solid performance earlier in the day earned these two polished debaters a berth in the semifinal round against Hanover High School in New Hampshire (which regularly competes against Vermont teams), and the Colchester students' informative and, most importantly, persuasive arguments won the judges' approval for entry into the decisive final round against Montpelier, and

Whereas, the four experienced students' verbal exchanges reflected their agility as public forum debaters, but after careful deliberation, the three judges voted two to one to award Colchester the championship's top honor, and

Whereas, throughout the academic year, Ariana Riedinger and Naomi Shpaner were the leaders of an outstanding team of Colchester debaters, who were Lunar Wager, Isabella Rodriguez, McCartney Holtz, Brin Averett, Josh Bierer, Ethan Thompson, Norah Glass, Isla Stowell, Alyssa Bierer, and Leah Gilmond, and the team's superb faculty advisor, Oliver Kranichfeld, offered guidance and wisdom that greatly contributed to Colchester's well-deserved State championship victory, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2026 Colchester High School State championship debate team, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Colchester High School.