

**No. R-343. House concurrent resolution recognizing the fifth anniversary of the Middlebury Language Schools–Bennington College intercultural education collaboration.**

(H.C.R.285)

Offered by Representatives Greer of Bennington, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Morrissey of Bennington, and Nigro of Bennington

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

*Whereas*, in the 21st century, knowledge of foreign languages has become essential to succeed in an increasingly interconnected world, and

*Whereas*, in 1915, just as advances in telecommunication and transportation were beginning to transform the globe, the forward-thinking leadership of Middlebury College established the first Middlebury Language School, offering an intensive summer course of instruction in German, and over the next 111 years, the curriculum expanded to include Abenaki, Arabic, Chinese, French, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish, and

*Whereas*, the mission of Middlebury Language Schools is to “provide expert education in languages and cultures through innovative, immersive instruction,” and

*Whereas*, Middlebury Language Schools welcome students from around the world, who receive expert instruction and sign a pledge to speak only in the language being studied for the duration of the totally immersive course and associated living experience, and

*Whereas*, in 2019, the presidents of Middlebury College and Bennington College (which was established in 1932 as an institution dedicated to innovative approaches to higher education), entered into a five-year agreement, which became effective in 2021, to relocate the Arabic, Italian, and Portuguese Middlebury Language Schools to the Bennington College campus, and

*Whereas*, during these past five years, this agreement has served as a model collaboration between the two Vermont colleges, demonstrating their mutual commitment to academic excellence and intercultural exchange, *now therefore be it*

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

That the General Assembly recognizes the fifth anniversary of the Middlebury Language Schools–Bennington College intercultural education collaboration, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Bennington College and Middlebury College.