

No. R-347. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Brattleboro Union High School championship mock trial team.

(H.C.R.289)

Offered by Representatives Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Burke of Brattleboro, and Goodnow of Brattleboro

Offered by Senators Harrison and Hashim

Whereas, for the past decade, the Vermont Mock Trial Competition for high school students has offered students a combined educational and experiential opportunity to engage in the full scope of the courtroom process, and

Whereas, in 2026, the students were challenged with a criminal case listing charges of murder as an accessory and conspiracy to commit murder, and

Whereas, the participating student attorneys were presented a case packet consisting of a maximum of six witness affidavits and associated exhibits; based on these materials, they drafted opening statements, direct and cross-examination questions, and closing arguments, and

Whereas, the competition's curriculum also includes instruction on courtroom procedure and the rules of evidence, and

Whereas, aside from the litigation-specific elements, this academic exercise enables the students to improve their critical thinking and public speaking skills, and

Whereas, this year's competition was held at Vermont Law and Graduate School in South Royalton on March 14, 2026, and the panel of 15 judges included members of the federal and State Judiciary, as well as practicing lawyers, and

Whereas, after all the trial proceedings had concluded and the judges assessed the student advocates, the Brattleboro Union High School (BUHS) team was awarded first place honors, and

Whereas, the BUHS lawyers were Abraham Balint-Wohl, Danny Mahoney-Schmitt, Sal North, and Isabel Young; the school's student witnesses were Leland Stromberg, Eli Welch, and Gilbert Komuves; the faculty coaches were Tessa Anders and Ashley Nadeau; and Alycia Sanders served as the practicing attorney advisor, and

Whereas, the selection of BUHS as the competition's top team reflects the diligent preparation of these outstanding students, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2026 Brattleboro Union High School championship mock trial team, *and be it further*

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