

Jacob Law

Testimony to Senate Education Committee

April 8, 2026

H.931 Veterans Day Amendment

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Good afternoon Mr. Chair and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Jacob Law. I am a senior at Essex High School, an Eagle Scout, and a former Legislative Page.

I am speaking today in support of adding an amendment to H.931 requiring all Vermont schools to close on Veterans Day starting in the 2027-2028 school year. My mother served in the Air National Guard for over two decades, so the sacrifices veterans make for all of us have added significance for me.

Every year on Veterans' Day, there are many observances and events across the state. Barre, Bennington, and St Albans all hold parades, Burlington has a yearly service at Battery Park, and five Vermont State College Campuses hold recognition events. Of course, this is just a short list of all the events that Vermont holds every year to honor our veterans. Unfortunately, most students are in classrooms when these events are happening.

Similar to Martin Luther King Day and Memorial Day, students should have Veterans Day off and be encouraged by their schools to spend the day out in the community.

Having Veterans Day off would not only allow students to be out in the community honoring veterans, but it would also align us with our neighboring states.

Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York all have Veterans Day off, so this proposal would provide consistency between all the Northeast states.

I have previously worked with my school district to have ours be the first in the Champlain Valley to have Veterans Day off. Many school officials supported this idea, but it has ultimately failed because the regional calendar disincentivizes any one school district to act alone. This proposed amendment ensures that every student, regardless of school district, town, or zip code, has Veterans Day off to honor those who have fought so hard for our freedoms, to honor all those who currently serve and have served.

Thank you for your time and consideration.