

**No. R-2. House concurrent resolution designating January 2019 as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.2)

Offered by: Representatives Sibilio of Dover, Christie of Hartford, Conlon of Cornwall, LaLonde of South Burlington, Long of Newfane, and Myers of Essex

Whereas, the elected citizen members of Vermont's school boards are extremely dedicated public servants, tackling education policy issues that are of enormous concern to school administrators, teachers, parents, students, and the community at large, and

Whereas, school board members devote countless hours to overseeing all local jurisdictional aspects of public education in Vermont and, at most, are paid only token monetary compensation, and

Whereas, certain matters confronting school boards may resonate strongly with a specific constituency—for example, whether a particular high school course will be offered or a varsity sport played, and

Whereas, school board members must occasionally decide potentially sensitive and divisive questions, such as whether to continue the tenure of a teacher, principal, or superintendent, and

Whereas, although school board members are not the originators of State education laws and administrative directives, they are often the first public officials required to respond to criticism regarding the State's education policies, and

Whereas, following the passage in 2015 of Act 46, school board service became more challenging, as it involved deliberations to determine the future composition and sometimes continued existence of school districts and school boards, and

Whereas, school board members have collaborated with their communities to improve the educational opportunities available for students' and parents' consideration, and

Whereas, in facing these challenging demands, school board members receive far too little praise for their public service, and

Whereas, nationally, a number of states and local communities observe January as School Board Recognition Month in order to honor the special work of school boards, and the granting of this honor to Vermont's school boards and their members is well deserved, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates January 2019 as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont School Boards Association in Montpelier.