

**No. R-95. House concurrent resolution designating March 12, 2015, as Vermont Writes Day.**

(H.C.R.62)

Offered by: Representative Lippert of Hinesburg

Whereas, in 2006, the Vermont Business Roundtable financed the establishment of the Burlington-based Young Writers Project (YWP) to encourage and motivate Vermont students to write, and

Whereas, the vision of YWP is “to build a generation of better writers by engaging as many youths as possible through a respectful online teen learning community,” and

Whereas, the organization’s mission is “to build a generation of confident writers who think, develop ideas and express themselves with clarity, civility and power,” and

Whereas, YWP works directly with teachers in approximately 50 schools through digital projects and in-school residencies, and

Whereas, live presentations, workshops, and perhaps most importantly, a website that solicits student writers’ submissions, are all aspects of YWP, and

Whereas, teachers use YWP’s website as an incentive for students to write and students have commented that it helps them in their writing, and

Whereas, approximately 2,500 students are using the YWP website, which receives roughly 1,500 visits every day, and, since 2006, approximately 100,000 pieces of writing have been submitted, and

Whereas, the best work is published in cooperating newspapers and digital media, including the *Burlington Free Press*, the *Rutland Herald*, the *St. Albans Messenger*, vpr.net, vtdigger.org, cowbird.com, and the new YWP online magazine *The Voice*, and

Whereas, as a celebration of the art of writing, YWP is observing Thursday, March 12, 2015, as the sixth Vermont Writes Day, and

Whereas, YWP is operating a special one-day website on which students have seven minutes to write to one of seven prompts, and

Whereas, in 2014, nearly 100 schools and an estimated 20,000 youngsters participated in this creative writing event, and

Whereas, representatives of YWP and several enthusiastic student writers are visiting the State House today to commemorate Vermont Writes Day, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates March 12, 2015, as Vermont Writes Day, and be it further

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