WHEREAS, in Vermont, approximately 35,000 individuals age 25 and older do not have a high school diploma or its equivalent; and

WHEREAS, Adult Education programs contribute to solving these challenges by helping Vermonters move along the continuum in their educational journey to achieve basic skills and get prepared for career and college; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1,800 adult Vermonters receive Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) services annually through Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Inc., Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, The Tutorial Center and Vermont Adult Learning; and

WHEREAS, these four AEL organizations provide services in every town and county throughout Vermont to empower Vermonters to build better lives through education, training and employment, and to strengthen Vermont’s workforce and economy; and

WHEREAS, these AEL organizations provided services to over 1,000 adult Vermonters during the COVID-19 Stay Home, Stay Safe executive order, ensuring that those most vulnerable and in need could continue their quests for career and college readiness; and

WHEREAS, these AEL organizations provide nearly 78,000 hours of literacy and adult education services a year; and

WHEREAS, these AEL organizations provide basic skills instruction in reading, writing, math and digital literacy, and provide adults with the skills necessary to attend and be successful in post-secondary education and job training programs; and

WHEREAS, the Vermont Agency of Education oversees AEL programs and Vermont’s High School Completion Program to ensure that adults have the opportunity to obtain a secondary school credential; and

WHEREAS, these AEL organizations support adults in building skills to receive Industry Recognized Credentials to better their careers; and

WHEREAS, these AEL organizations support adults in obtaining and retaining jobs; and

WHEREAS, these AEL organizations provide Vermont’s adult immigrants, refugees and new Americans with the opportunity to learn English
language skills, obtain citizenship skills and U.S. citizenship, get jobs and integrate successfully into their new communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim September 20-26, 2020 as

ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY WEEK

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 30th day of September, A.D. 2020.

______________________
Philip B. Scott
Governor

Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs