## A Resolve to Protect Pollinator Habitat

**S.497** Sponsored by Senator Jason Lewis (Winchester)

**H.818** Sponsored by Representative Mary Keefe (Worcester)

### What are pollinators?
- Honey bees, wild bees, and wasps
- Butterflies, moths, and beetles
- Birds such as hummingbirds

### What’s the crisis?
- U.S. pollinator populations have been **declining for decades**.
  - **1947**: 6 million colonies of honeybees
  - **2018**: 2.5 million colonies of honeybees

### What’s the cause?
- The crisis is due to a wide variety of stressors, including...
  - Disease / mite infestations
  - Poor nutrition
  - Lack of genetic diversity
  - Pesticide exposure
  - Loss of habitat
  - Colony Collapse Disorder

### Why should we care?
- One out of every three bites of food we eat depends on pollinators.
- Pollinators contribute more than **$24 billion** to the U.S. economy each year and are the glue that holds the natural world together.

### Protecting pollinator habitats...
- Restores pollinator populations
- Improves water quality
- Reduces soil erosion
- Provides habitats for birds and other wildlife

### Solution: It’s Massachusetts’ Turn to be a Leader in Pollinator Recovery

### 22 states have passed laws to restore pollinator habitats by addressing one or more of the following:
- **Research**
- **Habitat Protection**
- **Awareness**

For example, in Connecticut the bill SB231 **convened experts** for a Pollinator Advisory Committee to better understand pollinator health.

In Washington, the bill HB2478 requires agencies to give preference to **native forage plants** that benefit pollinators when replacing weeds.

Oregon bill HB3362 established the **pollinator health outreach and education plan** to educate the public on the importance of pollinators.

### What would the Massachusetts bill "A Resolve to Protect Pollinator Habitat" accomplish?
- **Establish a commission to study statewide opportunities** for improving pollinator health by increasing and enhancing native habitat
  - Includes both developed and natural areas, such as farm field borders, urban areas, and transportation corridors
- **Examine many issues relevant to pollinator health**, including current laws and regulations, public awareness, funding, best management practices, and the use of agricultural and non-agricultural lands