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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 284

Offered January 24, 2000

*Memorializing the Congress of the United States to amend that portion of the Trade Act of 1974 establishing the North American Free Trade Agreement Transitional Adjustment Assistance Program to extend the maximum time period for receipt of benefits from 52 weeks to 78 weeks.*

Patron—Armstrong

Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce

WHEREAS, the Trade Act of 1974 established a statutory framework for providing transitional adjustment assistance to employees displaced due to increased importation of competitive products; and

WHEREAS, the adoption by Congress of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) included the establishment of a transitional adjustment assistance program in the event that imports of competitive goods from Canada or Mexico are an important contribution to workers' separation; and

WHEREAS, since the adoption of NAFTA, the number of imports from Canada and Mexico of products directly competitive with products manufactured in the United States has increased; and

WHEREAS, many manufacturing plants in the United States have displaced workers or closed entirely due to increased competition from imported products; and

WHEREAS, American workers have had difficulty finding similar employment and need retraining services to be qualified for other types of employment; and

WHEREAS, the current length of time for retraining benefits under the Trade Act is inadequate for most Americans to complete retraining programs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Virginia General Assembly memorialize the Congress of the United States to amend that portion of the Trade Act of 1974 establishing the North American Free Trade Agreement Transitional Adjustment Assistance Program to extend the maximum time period for receipt of benefits from 52 weeks to 78 weeks; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly of Virginia most fervently urge and encourage each state legislative body of the United States of America to enact this resolution, or one similar in context and form, as a show of solidarity in petitioning the federal government for greater benefits to workers displaced due to the adoption of NAFTA; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Labor, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, each member of the Virginia Congressional Delegation, and to the presiding officer of each house of each state legislative body in the United States of America.

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