

Designating October 16 as Children of America Finding Hope Day in Virginia.

Patrons-Stump, Johnson, Keister and Miles<br>Referred to Committee on General Laws

WHEREAS, Children of America Finding Hope is a Southwest-Virginia based organization dedicated to meeting "the emotional and physical needs of disadvantaged children, runaways, children in crisis and juvenile delinquents, by providing help in a tangible form regardless of religion, race, sex, or socioeconomic status"; and

WHEREAS, among its many programs, Children of America Finding Hope offers crisis services, to help a child's family when its home has been destroyed; safe house programs, so that any child in need will be able to find a safe harbor; and counseling, offered to children who have been through a family crisis or physical or emotional abuse; and

WHEREAS, the leaders of Children of America Finding Hope believe that families are strengthened when parents and children spend time together as a family unit; and

WHEREAS, toward that end, Children of America Finding Hope feels that a day designated for reestablishing lost relationships between parents and teen-aged children and establishing a stronger bond between parents and younger children would benefit the family unit and mitigate many of the problems facing America's young people; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby designate October 16, in 2002 and in each succeeding year, as Children of America Finding Hope Day in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly urge the families of Virginia to observe this day in pursuit of family-centered activities that foster greater understanding and communication between children and their parents.

