

2008 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 41

Designating November, in 2008 and in each succeeding year, as Virginia Adoption Awareness Month.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 25, 2008

Agreed to by the Senate, February 26, 2008

WHEREAS, families across Virginia desire to provide loving and permanent homes to children in need; and

WHEREAS, education about and awareness of adoption services and the adoption process are necessary throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, there are hundreds of children living in foster care in Virginia who await adoption placement, with two-thirds of them being six years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, families who open their hearts and homes to a child in need play a vital role in fostering stable and loving families and strong communities; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Adoption Awareness Day, celebrated each year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, signifies a day of promise and hope for children in need of a permanent, loving, and safe home; and

WHEREAS, National Adoption Awareness Day began in 2000 with the Alliance for Children's Rights and support from the Freddie Mac Foundation, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, and others, such as the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute and Target, have become supporters; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of public departments of social services, private adoption agencies, and other community resources collaborate to provide services to thousands of children each year; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, November 17, 2007, hundreds of communities in all 50 states held courtroom celebrations to finalize more than 3,330 adoptions of children from foster care, bringing the total number of finalized adoptions as part of National Adoption Day activities to more than 20,000; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's Adoption Awareness Day corresponds with the National Adoption Awareness Day, a day established to increase public awareness of the need for more adoptive families and to recognize the work of adoption professionals, child welfare agencies, and child advocacy groups who work on behalf of adoptive families and children; and

WHEREAS, Virginia has recognized one day, Virginia Adoption Awareness Day, with statewide adoption awareness events and activities; however, to designate the entire month of November as Virginia Adoption Awareness Month will only heighten awareness and understanding of the needs of children in foster care awaiting adoption; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That November, in 2008 and in each succeeding year, be designated as Virginia Adoption Awareness Month to encourage awareness of the needs of children living in foster care for permanent and loving homes, and of the needs of birth, foster, and adoptive families throughout their family life cycle; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of November as Virginia Adoption Awareness Month on the General Assembly's website.

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