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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 425

Offered February 9, 2009

*Commending Voices for Virginia's Children on the occasion of its 15th anniversary.*

Patrons—Howell and Saslaw

WHEREAS, Voices for Virginia's Children (Voices) has for 15 years been a highly effective champion of public policies that improve the lives of children in Virginia, especially those who are disadvantaged or vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, the Voices' KIDS COUNT data system is the most relied upon source of information on the status and well-being of children in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Voices conducts extensive policy research and develops and promotes effective policy solutions tailored to Virginia; and

WHEREAS, legislators, policy makers, and community leaders depend on Voices as the best source for objective, nonpartisan recommendations on children's issues; and

WHEREAS, Voices brings key issues and emerging problems involving child well-being to the attention of the public and our leaders and inspires them to take action on behalf of children; and

WHEREAS, Voices creates powerful coalitions and inspires others to work together to improve the lives of children in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Voices has been the leader in fostering significant policy initiatives to benefit children, including initiatives in early childhood, foster care, children's health care and health coverage, child mental health, and family economic success; and

WHEREAS, the policy initiatives championed by the dedicated staff and board members of Voices for Virginia's Children have improved the lives of countless thousands of Virginia's children and families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate Voices for Virginia's Children on the occasion of its 15th anniversary and recognize its outstanding leadership and effectiveness in improving the well-being of Virginia's children; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to John Morgan, Executive Director, and James Duty, Chair of the Board of Voices for Virginia's Children, as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation of the organization's dedication to the children of the Commonwealth.

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