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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 156**

House Amendments in [ ] - February 1, 2010

[ ~~Recognizing~~ Designating ] January 29 [ , ] in 2010 [ and in each succeeding year, ] as National Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day.

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Delegate Toscano

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) was established in 1975 to assist working people who earn low or moderate incomes; and

WHEREAS, the EITC is the federal government's largest benefits program for working families, with 24.6 million American families and individuals claiming Earned Income Tax Credits worth \$48.7 billion in 2009; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, 533,884 eligible Virginians claimed an average EITC refund of \$1,900, for a total of more than \$1 billion in credits claimed; and

WHEREAS, these Virginians are simply recovering monies to which they are entitled and which have been withheld from their paycheck; and

WHEREAS, these monies help fund the critical needs of families while injecting money into local economies; and

WHEREAS, according to national estimates, 15 to 20 percent of eligible workers do not claim federal Earned Income Tax Credit benefits; and

WHEREAS, in a weak economy, many working individuals and families have faced unemployment or have seen their incomes decline steeply, making it critical this year more than ever that eligible citizens be aware of and able to claim tax credits like the EITC; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly [ ~~recognize~~ designate ] January 29 [ , ] in 2010 [ and in each succeeding year, ] as National Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the [ ~~recognition~~ designation ] of this day on the General Assembly's website.

ENGROSSED

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