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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 575

Offered January 12, 2011

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*Commending Access Now.*

Patron—O'Bannon

WHEREAS, the Richmond Academy of Medicine created Access Now Inc. in 2008 in response to the pressing need for specialty care for impoverished and uninsured residents of Virginia's capital region, including 27 localities from Ashland to Petersburg; and

WHEREAS, Access Now is Virginia's single largest network of 900 physician volunteers, representing 42 specialty and sub-specialty fields and the medical professionals who assist them; and

WHEREAS, these professionals generously provide quality care at no charge and with no compensation of any kind for patients referred to them; and

WHEREAS, Access Now physician volunteers are essential to the sustainability of the health safety net, delivering more than \$8 million worth of charity care to the region's impoverished and uninsured population since 2008; and

WHEREAS, each day these medical professionals, through the services they provide, support 18 safety net clinics in the Richmond region, including free clinics, federally qualified health centers, and public health departments; and

WHEREAS, Access Now's selfless volunteers have served more than 5,000 citizens across the region and thus reduced the burden on emergency departments in community hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Access Now has been designated as a Neighborhood Builder by the Bank of America and is generously supported by area foundations and community hospitals that recognize its worthy cause; and

WHEREAS, Access Now's medical professionals are a shining example of civic involvement from the private sector in helping people find hope and good health, helping to enhance the capital region's quality of life and the health of its families and workers; and

WHEREAS, a grateful Commonwealth expresses its sincere gratitude and deep appreciation to Access Now's dedicated volunteers for their many valuable contributions to improving the quality of life and health care in the Commonwealth of Virginia; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Access Now for its many valuable contributions to the quality of life and health for individuals in the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Carolyn E. Thomas, M.D., chair of the board of directors of Access Now, as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation for the dedicated work of Access Now's team of dedicated volunteers.

INTRODUCED

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