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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 497

Offered March 2, 2012

Commending the Francis Scott Key Elementary School Dual Language (Two-Way Immersion) Program.

Patrons—Brink, Englin, Hope and Lopez; Senators: Ebbin, Favola and Howell

WHEREAS, in 2011 the Francis Scott Key Elementary School Dual Language (Two-Way Immersion) Program celebrated 25 years of providing Arlington County students with a Spanish/English dual language program to enable them to become bilingual; and

WHEREAS, Key School, also known as Escuela Key, has been at the national and international forefront of immersion programs for 25 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1986 Key School/Escuela Key established its immersion program with a first-grade class and each year added another grade to the program with a full-day kindergarten being added in 1991; and

WHEREAS, each class in the Key School/Escuela Key immersion program contains native Spanish speakers and native English speakers who receive academic instruction in both languages, enabling the students to develop proficiency in the other language; and

WHEREAS, students gain a valuable perspective on other cultures and languages during the Key School/Escuela Key immersion program, while also expressing their creativity through music, art, writing, movement, and athletics and becoming technologically literate; and

WHEREAS, a strong emphasis is placed on respecting and celebrating diverse cultures as students learn the importance of personal responsibility, cooperation, and community; and

WHEREAS, teachers in the Key School/Escuela Key immersion program regularly participate in professional development opportunities in order to enhance their own knowledge and ensure their effectiveness in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, most students in the Key School/Escuela Key immersion program are able to communicate effectively in two languages by the fifth grade, helping them grow up to become global citizens prepared to meet the challenges of the future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Francis Scott Key Elementary School Dual Language (Two-Way Immersion) Program on the occasion of its 25th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Francis Scott Key Elementary School Dual Language (Two-Way Immersion) Program as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for the program's commitment to bilingual education.

INTRODUCED

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