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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 67

Offered January 11, 2012

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*Commending the Patient Advocate Foundation on the occasion of its 15th anniversary.*

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WHEREAS, the Patient Advocate Foundation, formed in 1996 in Newport News, has provided those with life-threatening or debilitating diseases with mediation and arbitration services to resolve health insurance, job retention, and debt crisis issues; and

WHEREAS, in 1996 Nancy Davenport-Ennis formed the Patient Advocate Foundation and National Patient Advocate Foundation in memory of her friend Cheryl Grimmel, who succumbed to breast cancer after a valiant struggle; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Davenport-Ennis realized that many people diagnosed with cancer or other debilitating diagnoses faced not only a grueling treatment regimen but a myriad of issues related to retaining employment and health insurance to pay escalating medical costs; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the Patient Advocate Foundation has added new programs, moved its headquarters to Hampton, and added eight offices throughout the country to better assist those in need; and

WHEREAS, the Patient Advocate Foundation has grown tremendously since its first year, when it had one program, helped 157 patients, and raised \$118,725; in fiscal year 2010 - 2011, the Foundation had 20 programs, helped 88,233 patients, and raised more than \$45 million; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 the Patient Advocate Foundation began its Co-Pay Relief Program to provide financial assistance with prescriptions and treatments to qualifying patients; since its inception, the program has helped 50,065 patients and provided \$130 million in assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Patient Advocate Foundation has earned two consecutive 4-star ratings from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator, for its strong fiscal management; and

WHEREAS, the Patient Advocate Foundation has dedicated staff, a knowledgeable board of directors, and generous supporters who work together with the common goal of helping those who are struggling with life-threatening and debilitating diseases; and

WHEREAS, the Patient Advocate Foundation has provided much needed services to thousands of individuals over the years with great professionalism and compassion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Patient Advocate Foundation on the occasion of its 15th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Patient Advocate Foundation as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for its work to help those in need.

INTRODUCED

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