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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 421

Offered February 15, 2013

Commending the Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities.

Patron—Hanger

WHEREAS, the Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities is an association of private Virginia providers of specialized education and services for children and youth with special needs and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities (VAISEF) was chartered in 1973 for the purpose of developing and maintaining an effective collaborative relationship with public sector educational and human services agencies; and

WHEREAS, VAISEF has since established a mission to enhance the capabilities of its members to provide quality specialized education and services by offering an accreditation process and by providing information, training, and networking opportunities; and

WHEREAS, VAISEF also works to increase opportunities for members to provide services by advocating for a full continuum of services and for an increased role of the private sector and by networking with state and local agencies; and

WHEREAS, VAISEF is now comprised of more than 75 facilities, which, to be eligible, must be licensed by the Virginia Department of Education and engaged full time in the education and treatment of children and youth with special needs; and

WHEREAS, VAISEF facilities must provide experiences that enable the individual to develop physical, intellectual, social, and emotional capabilities to their fullest potential; to learn and live in a positive environment that is conducive to personal dignity and growth; and to continue the development of the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will enhance participation in society; and

WHEREAS, VAISEF member facilities annually serve over 3,000 students with disabilities and their families, ensuring they receive a quality education that meets their individual learning needs; and

WHEREAS, during the past 40 years, VAISEF, with its rigorous set of standards established to provide a framework for accreditation through a peer review process approved by the Virginia Council for Private Education and recognized by the Virginia State Board of Education, has supported its members in continuing to provide innovative and high-quality educational services to Virginia's children, youth, and adults with special needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, with the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of its founding; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation for VAISEF's 40 years of service to Virginia's youth and their families.

INTRODUCED

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