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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 43

Offered January 8, 2014

Prefiled December 31, 2013

*Designating October 11, in 2014 and in each succeeding year, as Day of the Girl in Virginia.*

Patrons—Loupassi, Greason, Peace, Robinson, Stolle and Wilt; Senator: McEachin

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the International Day of the Girl publicly recognizes the vulnerable positions of girls worldwide and endorses their protection and promotion as equal citizens in every country; and

WHEREAS, countless schools throughout the world are not safe places for girls or conducive to learning and in many countries girls even starve to death, have few options for a quality life, or sell themselves in order to survive; and

WHEREAS, in various countries, girls do not have the right of free speech or enjoy privileges afforded others in their respective societies, are exploited and attacked, and are subjected to media pressure concerning how they should look, act, and feel; and

WHEREAS, working and cooperating together, girls throughout the world can have a positive effect on each other and strengthen their bonds in the global community through monetary and legislative awareness and action; and

WHEREAS, girls in the United States are afforded rights and privileges denied to many females globally and, as a result, have a responsibility to advocate for girls and women without such advantages; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that the student body of St. Catherine's School has been afforded many benefits and advantages which it desires to share with the local and international community, the school's mission is to prepare girls of diverse backgrounds for leadership and service in a global community and to encourage and enable them to advocate boldly and assertively for the rights of girls throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, on December 19, 2011, "the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 66/170 to declare October 11th each year as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world," and St. Catherine's School encourages the enactment of the United Nations resolution in tangible ways at the local level to serve as a catalyst for awareness that leads to change; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate October 11, in 2014 and in each succeeding year, as Day of the Girl in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to Dr. Terrie Hale Scheckelhoff, Head of St. Catherine's School, so that the Board of Governors, faculty and staff, and students may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this day on the General Assembly's website.

INTRODUCED

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