

14105006D

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 163

Offered February 26, 2014

*Commending Equality Virginia.*

Patrons—Ebbin, Alexander, Barker, Deeds, Edwards, Favola, Howell, Lewis, Locke, Lucas, Marsden, Marsh, McEachin, Miller, Petersen, Puller, Saslaw, Wagner and Wexton; Delegates: BaCote, Brink, Bulova, Carr, Filler-Corn, Futrell, Herring, Hester, Hope, Keam, Kory, Krupicka, Lopez, Mason, McClellan, McQuinn, Morrissey, Plum, Rasoul, Rust, Sickles, Simon, Spruill, Surovell, Toscano and Watts

WHEREAS, Equality Virginia, a statewide organization that advocates for equal treatment of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Virginians, celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2014; and

WHEREAS, originally known as Virginians for Justice, Equality Virginia (EV) was founded in 1989 as a nonpartisan advocacy group that provides outreach, education, and analysis on issues affecting the community; and

WHEREAS, EV is made up of three separate groups: Equality Virginia Political Action Committee, Equality Virginia Education Fund, and Equality Virginia; and

WHEREAS, among many other successes, EV supported efforts to allow individuals to decide who may visit them in the hospital, and it set up a statewide registry for hospitals, making it easier for doctors to know who may make medical decisions; and

WHEREAS, leading efforts to create safer environments in schools, EV has championed anti-bullying measures; and

WHEREAS, EV has also made great strides in securing adoption rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Virginians and supported non-discrimination efforts; and

WHEREAS, EV helps create a more civic-minded electorate by promoting citizen awareness and active involvement in the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, EV strives to be the foremost organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Virginians; it has achieved a great deal toward protecting families, building safer communities, and creating a truly inclusive Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Equality Virginia on the occasion of its 25th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Equality Virginia as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the organization's dedication to equality for all Virginians and best wishes in the future.

INTRODUCED

SI163