

## 2016 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 346

Offered February 24, 2016

*Commending Just Neighbors.*

Patrons—Lopez, Boysko, Hope, Kory, Krizek, Rasoul, Spruill, Sullivan and Watts; Senators: Favola and Howell

WHEREAS, for 20 years, Just Neighbors, a community-based nonprofit organization in Northern Virginia, has developed practical responses to the legal challenges faced by immigrants to the United States; and

WHEREAS, with offices in Falls Church and Herndon, Just Neighbors has provided essential services to thousands of immigrants and refugees since it was established in 1996; the organization has helped more than 8,000 clients from 127 countries gain the legal status to work in the United States; and

WHEREAS, through direct services and collaborative strategies with other groups, Just Neighbors equips immigrants to better provide for themselves and their families and achieve self-sufficiency, stability, and independence; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, 62 percent of Just Neighbors' clients were from Central or North America, 15 percent were from South America, 12 percent were from Africa, and 11 percent were from Asia; the majority of the organization's clients were current residents of Fairfax County; and

WHEREAS, Just Neighbors also educates community leaders, local civic and service organizations, and potential clients through presentations about immigration law and policies; and

WHEREAS, Just Neighbors has succeeded in its mission with the help of a loyal staff of six and the generous support of hundreds of volunteers whose selfless service has ensured that the organization can provide assistance to anyone, regardless of their ability to pay; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Just Neighbors on the occasion of its 20th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Just Neighbors as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the organization's work to help immigrants and refugees become contributing members of the Northern Virginia community.

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