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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 493

Offered March 7, 2016

Commending Dr. Emma Violand-Sanchez.

Patrons—Lopez, Hope, Levine and Sullivan; Senators: Ebbin, Favola and Howell

WHEREAS, Dr. Emma Violand-Sanchez, a respected educator who has made many contributions benefiting students in Northern Virginia, retires as a member of the Arlington School Board in 2016; and

WHEREAS, a native of Bolivia, Dr. Violand-Sanchez holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Radford University and a doctorate from George Washington University; after immigrating to the United States, she pursued a long and fulfilling career as a teacher and administrator in Arlington County; and

WHEREAS, during her career with Arlington Public Schools, Dr. Violand-Sanchez developed and implemented a comprehensive English language program, which has been used as a national model; she also established the first bilingual GED program in the Commonwealth, and for 11 years, she has worked as an adjunct professor of linguistics at Georgetown University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Violand-Sanchez founded The Dream Project, which today provides scholarships, mentoring, and support to 100 promising immigrant youth, who hail from 14 different countries, were educated in 22 Virginia high schools, and now attend 18 colleges and universities in seven states; in 2015, three of the first Dream Project scholars graduated, and 93 percent of scholarship recipients have been able to stay in college; and

WHEREAS Dr. Violand-Sanchez also founded Edu-Futuro to better support low-income students from immigrant families in the Arlington community and established Arlington County's Project Family, which provides learning opportunities to parents of young children; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Violand-Sanchez has offered her leadership and expertise to numerous other civic and service organizations in Northern Virginia, and she is deeply respected among her peers for her work to ensure that all local residents can achieve a good education; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Dr. Violand-Sanchez joined the Arlington School Board, where she has worked diligently to create new opportunities for students and to support teachers and staff; she was later elected chair of the board; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Violand-Sanchez has earned numerous awards and accolades for her devoted service to young people and the community, and she was named a Fulbright Senior Scholar for her work as a consultant for educational reform in Bolivia; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Dr. Emma Violand-Sanchez on the occasion of her retirement as a member of the Arlington School Board; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Dr. Emma Violand-Sanchez as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for her commitment to serving the youth of Arlington County and the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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