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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 744

Offered January 13, 2017

Designating April 16, in 2018 and in each succeeding year, as World Voice Day in Virginia.

Patron—Garrett

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, it is estimated that nearly seven million Americans suffer from some form of voice disorder; and

WHEREAS, voice disorders can impact the everyday lives of those affected by inhibiting their ability to effectively express themselves; and

WHEREAS, there are many ways in which people can conserve their voice and prevent the development of voice disorders, including keeping hydrated, minimizing activities causing vocal strain such as yelling, warming up before heavy vocal use, using appropriate breath support, using amplification, and paying attention to vocal cues; and

WHEREAS, it is important to draw state, national, and international awareness to the existence of voice disorders and the availability of services provided by otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeons—the only medical doctor specifically trained to treat the ear, nose, throat, head, and neck—as well as other specialized providers for the amelioration of these disorders; and

WHEREAS, every year on April 16, otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeons and other voice health professionals worldwide join together to recognize World Voice Day, an international celebration of the human voice established to help raise public and professional awareness about voice disorders; and

WHEREAS, World Voice Day is sponsored in the United States by the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and encourages men and women, young and old, to assess their vocal health and take action to improve or maintain good voice habits; and

WHEREAS, Virginians are encouraged to practice techniques that may help prevent the onset of a voice disorder or to visit an otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeon if they are suffering from a voice disorder; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate April 16, in 2018 and in each succeeding year, as World Voice Day in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the Virginia Society of Otolaryngology so that members of the organization 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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