ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 232

Commending Ayuda.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 16, 2018
Agreed to by the Senate, February 22, 2018

WHEREAS, for 45 years, the nonprofit organization Ayuda has worked to improve the lives of low-income immigrants in the Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C., regions by providing legal aid, social workers and case management, and interpreter services; and

WHEREAS, with a name meaning "help" in Spanish, Ayuda was founded in 1973 with a mission to protect the legal rights of immigrants and provide them with aid to overcome obstacles and succeed in the United States; and

WHEREAS, today, Ayuda has 36 full-time, bilingual attorneys and social workers and works with more than 150 interpreters who are fluent in over 40 languages; the organization operates out of two offices, one in Washington, D.C., and one in Falls Church; and

WHEREAS, Ayuda provides a wide range of assistance to immigrants, including legal consultations, help with completing and filing forms, family law services, and representation at asylum interviews and in immigration courts; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Ayuda works to provide shelter, food, clothing, health care, group and individual therapy, and case management to vulnerable immigrant children as well as immigrant victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, the hardworking staff, attorneys, social workers, and interpreters at Ayuda are committed to advocating for and providing resources to immigrants and their families; since its founding, the organization has assisted immigrants in over 100,000 cases; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Ayuda on the occasion of its 45th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Ayuda as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for its years of service to low-income immigrants.