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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 254

Offered February 7, 2019

Commending the Northern Virginia Dental Society.

Patron—Kory

WHEREAS, for 25 years, the Northern Virginia Dental Society has run the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic, which today consists of two health care dental facilities in which volunteer dentists, dental hygienists, and auxiliaries provide health care services for the indigent population of Northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, when the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic was established on February 28, 1994, there were no other dental programs or safety-net providers available for indigent populations to access oral health care in Northern Virginia; the original clinic consisted of four small treatment rooms in a building in Falls Church; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Dental Society's outreach included the Mission of Mercy Project, started in 2002 to meet the high demand for dental care in areas of Virginia, especially rural areas, where no other resources existed; and

WHEREAS, over the last 25 years the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic has greatly evolved and is recognized as one of the most well-run, state-of-the-art dental clinics in the country, with a brand-new facility in Fairfax, as well as a second facility location in Loudoun County; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Dental Clinics have a total of ten treatment rooms and have provided well over \$5.5 million in care to more than 2,800 individuals through 11,300 dental appointments, with more than 27,000 dental procedures rendered and 5,300 dental professional volunteer hours contributed; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Dental Clinics are staffed with full-time and part-time dentists, auxiliary personnel, and many volunteers; the clinics also have affiliation agreements with seven higher-education institutions that send dental students to gain valuable clinical experience; to date, the clinics have provided essential oral health care to more than 30,000 low-income residents from throughout the Northern Virginia region who might otherwise have gone without proper dental care; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Dental Society's Northern Virginia Dental Clinic continues its commitment to providing dental services to indigent populations at its two locations as well as in rural localities with its unique public-private partnership between dental professionals, local governments, and social services agencies to reduce dental-related emergency room visits and build self-esteem among its clients; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Northern Virginia Dental Society hereby be commended on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Northern Virginia Dental Society as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic's role in providing critically needed service to the community while preserving the dignity of the underserved.

INTRODUCED

HR254