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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 314**

Offered January 14, 2019

*Designating January 6, in 2020 and in each succeeding year, as Montessori Education Day in Virginia.*

Patrons—Vogel; Delegates: Collins and Gooditis

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, based on her observations of children and the manner by which they learn, Maria Montessori, a visionary physician and educator, developed an innovative philosophy of education in the early 1900s that continues to influence learning throughout the Commonwealth and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the original Montessori school, the Casa dei Bambini in San Lorenzo, Italy, opened on January 6, 1907, and was the first to implement many of the learning strategies that would become hallmarks of the Montessori method; and

WHEREAS, a unique educational system for children from birth through the age of 18, the Montessori program uses materials, techniques, and observations that support students' natural development, encourage their learning, independence, and self-confidence, and advance the principles of peace through responsible citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the child-centered Montessori method includes developmental teaching, one-on-one lessons, and the promotion of respect between the children and peace toward all humankind; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that Montessori school students demonstrate superior academic and social skills compared with children in other types of schooling and advance to higher education and careers as engaged, competent, responsible, and respectful leaders; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Montessori Association represents the Montessori community in the Commonwealth, increasing awareness of the Montessori method, encouraging high-quality educational opportunities, and supporting Montessori teachers, administrators, and parents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly designate January 6, in 2020 and in each succeeding year, as Montessori Education Day in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Virginia Montessori Association 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 Senate post the designation of this day on the General Assembly's website.

INTRODUCED

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