

## 2020 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 152

Offered January 20, 2020

*Commending Virginia Organizing.*

Patrons—Rasoul, Hope, Hudson, Hurst, Samirah and Simonds

WHEREAS, in 2020, Virginia Organizing, a nonprofit organization with chapters throughout the Commonwealth, celebrates 25 years of empowering and encouraging individuals to work together to strengthen their communities; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Organizing was founded in August 1995 as the Virginia Organizing Project and was the first statewide organization formed to encourage the active participation by different constituencies of people on a variety of issues; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Organizing is a grassroots organization dedicated to helping people address the issues that affect the quality of their lives and has members in every region of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, Virginia Organizing has built strong relationships with diverse individuals and groups across the state, enhancing their ability to work together for positive change; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Organizing has facilitated hundreds of Dismantling Racism workshops and leadership training programs in all parts of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Organizing has worked on local, state, and national campaigns on a variety of issues, including affordable housing, criminal justice, disability rights, economic security for families, the "ban the box" movement, employment, minimum wage, living wage, fighting predatory lending, education and the school-to-prison pipeline, environmental justice, health care and Medicaid expansion, immigration, LGBTQ rights, tax reform, and other social justice issues; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Organizing has championed fair elections and encouraged nonpartisan participation in the electoral process by preparing and distributing hundreds of thousands of statewide voter guides, registering voters, helping individuals restore their voting rights, and encouraging people to vote through phone banking, door-to-door canvassing, and providing transportation to the polls; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Organizing has received national and state awards and accolades for its work to organize for change in local communities and for making a deep and meaningful commitment to those who are traditionally disenfranchised in their communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Virginia Organizing on the occasion of its 25th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Virginia Organizing as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for its dedicated service to the people of Virginia.

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