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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 185

Offered February 5, 2020

*Commending the Children's Home Society of Virginia.*

Patrons—Adams, D.M., Avoli, Carr, Cole, M.L., Delaney, Hope, Simonds and Ware; Senators: Boysko, Edwards, Howell and Reeves

WHEREAS, in 2020, the Children's Home Society of Virginia, a nonprofit organization with offices in Richmond and Fredericksburg, celebrates 120 years of serving young people in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Home Society of Virginia is a licensed, private, nonsectarian, full-service child placing agency, the mission of which is to create strong, permanent families and lifelong relationships for children and youths throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Home Society of Virginia began in 1899 when a group of concerned citizens, deeply troubled by the care offered in orphanages at the time, banded together to help abandoned and neglected children; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Home Society of Virginia was chartered on January 30, 1900, with the Honorable John Garland Pollard, who became governor in 1930, as a founding member of the organization's board of directors; and

WHEREAS, since 1900, the staff members of the Children's Home Society of Virginia have worked diligently to place more than 14,500 children into adoptive homes; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Children's Home Society of Virginia began partnering with local social service agencies to help facilitate the placement of hundreds of children and youths from the foster care system into adoptive homes; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Children's Home Society of Virginia began serving as a Wendy's Wonderful Kids Site, a program of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, to recruit adoptive parents for children and youths who have waited for extended periods of time in foster care to be placed into adoptive families; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Home Society of Virginia not only finds permanent homes for children of all ages, but offers a lifetime of post-adoption support programs to Virginia's adoptive families and adoptees, including parent coaching, family support and engagement activities, respite care, and family search and reunion services; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Children's Home Society of Virginia began partnering with the Better Housing Coalition to create The Possibilities Project, a signature program that provides housing assistance and best practices to give youths who are transitioning from foster care the skills and resources they need to become independent, productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Home Society of Virginia is a permanency-driven organization that embraces the values of top-quality service delivery, working with integrity, maximizing collaborations, demonstrating compassion, and embracing equity and inclusion in all that it does; and

WHEREAS, for 120 years the Children's Home Society of Virginia has worked to provide all children, from newborns to older youths who have aged out of foster care, as well as children with special needs, with the healthy, supportive, and permanent adult relationships they need to thrive; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Children's Home Society of Virginia on the occasion of its 120th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the board of directors of the Children's Home Society of Virginia as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the organization's work to create permanency for the Commonwealth's young people.

INTRODUCED

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