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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 497

Offered March 2, 2020

Commending Friends of Loudoun Mental Health.

Patrons—Subramanyam; Senators: Bell, Boysko and Favola

WHEREAS, Friends of Loudoun Mental Health, an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization based in Leesburg that supports and advocates for members of the community disabled by mental illness, celebrates its 65th anniversary in 2020; and

WHEREAS, established in 1955, Friends of Loudoun Mental Health was initially an advisory board guiding mental health services in Loudoun County; in its early years, the organization aided the first mental health services to be introduced in Loudoun County and provided equipment and supplies to pioneering Loudoun County mental health centers; and

WHEREAS, acting as an advocate, educator, and service provider, the organization grew over the years; in the late 1980s, Friends of Loudoun Mental Health introduced its representative payee program to facilitate its clients' receipt of Supplemental Security Income and enhance the services it could provide; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, a public-private partnership was formed between Friends of Loudoun Mental Health and what is now the Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse & Developmental Services, amplifying the organization's ability to reach citizens of Loudoun County struggling with chronic mental illness and homelessness; and

WHEREAS, through responsible and equitable material assistance, distributed in coordination with Loudoun County's Mental Health Residential Services program, Friends of Loudoun Mental Health is an invaluable lifeline to countless members of the community in their greatest time of need; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that the personal and societal problems stemming from mental illness will only be solved through greater community awareness and effective legislation, Friends of Loudoun Mental Health serves as a passionate educator and advocate on behalf of the innumerable individuals and families dealing with these issues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Friends of Loudoun Mental Health for its tireless and noble efforts on the occasion of its 65th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Friends of Loudoun Mental Health as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the organization's mission and best wishes for its continued success.

INTRODUCED

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