

# 2020 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

20200814D

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 558

Offered August 24, 2020

*Commending Rise and Thrive, Inc.*

Patrons—Subramanyam and Reid

WHEREAS, Rise and Thrive, Inc., a multi-faceted after-school program dedicated to helping teenage girls grow into strong, confident women, has responded in a creative and proactive manner to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Ashley Koranteng and Ashley Lucas conceived of Rise and Thrive while studying together at George Mason University, recognizing the benefits that would come from connecting young women with relatable mentors and role models; and

WHEREAS, founded in September 2019, Rise and Thrive was originally intended to operate primarily through in-person sessions, but to accommodate the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization has shifted toward virtual programs with great success; and

WHEREAS, Rise and Thrive's weekly virtual summer series in 2020 has been attended by 90 participants in the United States and Canada, fostering community among young women at a time when quarantine measures are imposing upon many a sense of isolation and stress; and

WHEREAS, Rise and Thrive provides girls a roadmap for well-being and success by promoting nine important elements, including healthy relationships, healthy lifestyles, finances, academic enrichment, professional development, self-love, etiquette, social media, and safety; and

WHEREAS, by selflessly giving their time and talents for the benefit of others, the staff members at Rise and Thrive have embodied what makes the Commonwealth a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Rise and Thrive, Inc., an after-school program focused on supporting the social and emotional development of young women, hereby be commended for its meritorious response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Ashley Koranteng and Ashley Lucas, founders of Rise and Thrive, Inc., as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the organization's contributions to the Commonwealth.

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