HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 151

Designating the week of March 20, in 2022 and in each succeeding year, as Behavior Analysis Week in Virginia.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 8, 2022
Agreed to by the Senate, March 1, 2022

WHEREAS, the profession of behavior analysis is a natural science of behavior that was first developed in the 1930s; and

WHEREAS, behavior analytic researchers use basic scientific methods, including the experimental analysis of behavior, to address questions about how behavior works and how it changes; and

WHEREAS, starting in the 1940s and 1950s, some behavioral scientists demonstrated that the principles and procedures discovered by early researchers could be used to build useful skills in people with developmental and psychiatric disorders; and

WHEREAS, early applied behavior analysts implemented interventions in schools, homes, and other everyday settings, emphasizing the use of positive reinforcement to help individuals improve behaviors that were important to them and to those with whom they interacted; and

WHEREAS, the discipline has grown substantially over the years, and behavior analysis is now a robust field with theoretical, experimental, and applied branches, as well as distinct research methods, scientific journals, textbooks, scholarly and professional organizations, and university training programs; and

WHEREAS, thousands of studies published in scientific journals have shown the efficacy of many applied behavior analysis procedures, both singly and in various combinations, for building useful skills and reducing behaviors that impede healthy, successful functioning in many clinical and non-clinical populations; and

WHEREAS, the practice of applied behavior analysis is a distinct profession with well-established, widely recognized professional and paraprofessional practitioner standards and credentials; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth first recognized and licensed the profession of behavior analysis in 2012, and many Virginians have benefited from applied behavior analysis therapy; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2021, behavior analysis professionals around the globe celebrated the first World Behavior Analysis Day; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate the week of March 20, in 2022 and in each succeeding year, as Behavior Analysis Week in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the World Behavior Analysis Day Alliance 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 House of Delegates post the designation of this week on the General Assembly's website.