

## 2023 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 500

Offered February 23, 2023

*Celebrating the life of Mary Ann Price Bergeron.*

Patrons—Willett, Lopez, Orrock, Rasoul and Ware

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Price Bergeron, the longtime executive director of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, died on December 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Bergeron was born in New Jersey and graduated from Seton Hall University; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Bergeron worked as a teacher, a corporate consultant, and a human resources professional before becoming the executive director of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards in 1989; and

WHEREAS, under Mary Ann Bergeron's leadership, the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards promoted and advocated for the highest quality public and private care for mental health, intellectual disabilities, and substance use disorders in the Commonwealth; she led the movement to prioritize community-based behavioral health and developmental disability services in the minds of public policy makers; and

WHEREAS, during Mary Ann Bergeron's 25-year tenure as executive director, the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards built consensus on important issues, led statewide advocacy efforts, and ably represented the interests of community services consumers, their family members, and related organizations; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Bergeron provided her leadership and expertise to several state and local boards, commissions, and work groups on mental health law, Medicaid reform, civil detention and commitment reform, and public guardianship; and

WHEREAS, at the national level, Mary Ann Bergeron was an appointed member of the Public Policy Committee of the National Council for Behavioral Health, now the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, and served on the board of directors of the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD) for over 10 years and as the organization's treasurer for four years; and

WHEREAS, among many awards and accolades, Mary Ann Bergeron was recognized for her leadership and advocacy to secure funding for services for infants and toddlers with disabilities, received the NACBHDD's National Award for Leadership and Advocacy, was named to the Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board Hall of Fame, and was awarded the "Key to the Community" by the Virginia Network of Private Providers; and

WHEREAS, after her well-earned retirement in 2014, Mary Ann Bergeron enjoyed traveling and playing bridge with friends and especially loved every opportunity to spend time with her grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Bergeron will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by her children, Nicole and Christopher, and their families, and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Mary Ann Bergeron; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Mary Ann Price Bergeron as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for her memory.

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