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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 543

Offered January 23, 1995

Requesting the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to monitor federal rule-making regarding au pair regulations and to report to the General Assembly.

Patrons—Mims and May; Senator: Waddell

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the safety of children is of the utmost importance; and

WHEREAS, parents and guardians have the right to have confidence in those providing care for their children: and

WHEREAS, all children have the right to be free from danger from those entrusted with their care; and

WHEREAS, it is everyone's responsibility to ensure to the best of his or her ability the safety of each child; and

WHEREAS, the United States Information Agency (USIA) sets guidelines for Exchange Visitor Programs and designates the agencies allowed to bring au pairs into the United States; and

WHEREAS, there are eight "designated" agencies allowed to bring au pairs into the United States and several of these agencies operate in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the USIA can only draft voluntary regulations by which the designated agencies are not required to abide; and

WHEREAS, the USIA believes that further regulation is needed and has initiated a rulemaking; and WHEREAS, there is no state regulation of au pairs in Virginia; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Secretary of Health and Human Resources be requested to monitor federal rule-making regarding au pair regulations.

The Secretary shall report to the General Assembly by December 1, 1995, on the status of the federal rulemaking and on any state action recommended to protect young children and to inform parents who use au pairs of their rights and responsibilities.