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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 105

Offered January 22, 1996

Commending certain corporate citizens for their support of the Virginia Health Care Foundation and encouraging other members of Virginia's private sector to support innovative efforts by the Foundation to enhance access to primary and preventive health care for Virginia's uninsured and medically underserved citizens.

Patrons—Woods and Walker; Delegates: Brickley, Connally and Morgan

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, over one million Virginians are uninsured and have no access to health care, and the Commonwealth contains 44 health professional shortage areas where only one doctor may be serving more than 3,500 citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Joint Commission on Health Care initiated the Virginia Health Care Foundation in 1992 to promote and support community-based projects that increase access to primary and preventive health care for Virginia's uninsured and medically underserved citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Health Care Foundation now funds 45 innovative projects throughout Virginia which are public/private partnerships involving local hospitals, businesses, health care providers, and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, one-third of the Foundation's projects are designed to increase the number of primary care providers in Virginia's medically underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 1995, the Foundation's projects provided primary and preventive health care to almost 37,000 uninsured and medically underserved Virginians throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Health Care Foundation has undertaken several Leadership Initiatives to increase the number of primary care providers in medically underserved communities, including "Virginia Health Careers '96" to interest secondary students in health careers in Virginia, and a \$4.2 million low-interest "Healthy Communities Loan Fund" in cooperation with First Virginia Banks, Inc. and the "Practice Sights Initiative" of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation provides a tremendous return on the Commonwealth's investment in its work by leveraging five dollars for every state dollar it receives; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Health Care Foundation's private sector partners include the Theresa A. Thomas Memorial Foundation; Trigon Blue Cross Blue Shield; the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association; Columbia Capital Corporation; INOVA Health System; Crestar; Potomac Mills; Johnston Memorial Hospital; First Virginia Banks, Inc.; Jefferson National Bank; Virginia Power; KPMG Peat Marwick; McGuire Woods Battle & Boothe; Cadmus Communications; KOL Bio-Medical Instruments, Inc.; Kaiser Permanente; MAMsi Health Plans; QualChoice of Virginia; Sentara; and the Virginia Association of HMOs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House concurring, That the General Assembly commend these fine corporate citizens for supporting the dynamic and rapid evolution of the Virginia Health Care Foundation and making significant contributions to increasing access to primary and preventive health care for Virginia's uninsured and underserved citizens; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly encourage Virginia's other corporate citizens to contribute their various talents and resources to the efforts of the Virginia Health Care Foundation.

INTRODUCED

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