

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA -- 1997 SESSION

ENROLLED

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 459

*Commending the Fairfax County Commission for Women.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 17, 1997

Agreed to by the Senate, January 23, 1997

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Commission for Women was established by the Board of Supervisors on September 8, 1971, to promote the full equality of women and girls in Fairfax County, to report to the Board of Supervisors on the problems of women in the county, and to develop model solutions to those problems; and

WHEREAS, the commission has worked tirelessly to advance employment opportunity for women by supporting the formation of the Human Rights Commission and County Equal Employment Opportunity Office, starting the Re-entry Women's Employment Center, beginning the first Women's Job and Resource Fair, assisting the Board of Supervisors by developing "Job Sharing Policies and Practices for Fairfax County Employees" and "Managing Work and Family—Bottom Line Issues for Fairfax County Employees" and participating in the Welfare Reform Planning Committee; and

WHEREAS, the commission has endeavored to improve educational equity and opportunity in Fairfax County public schools by working with the schools to develop recommendations for eliminating gender bias in teaching materials and by establishing a sex equity coordinator position; and

WHEREAS, the commission has worked hand in hand with the Office for Women, establishing an Educational Equality Roundtable of educators and professionals to remove barriers to girls and women in schools, colleges and universities and sponsoring Project FAME (Females Achieving Math Equity) students with the Fairfax County government; and

WHEREAS, the commission has worked to reduce the incidence of crimes against women and improve the treatment of crime victims by supporting the development of the Victim Assistance Network, providing a report to the Board of Supervisors entitled "Battered Wives," establishing the Fairfax County Women's Shelter, developing the Court Observer Program to train volunteers to monitor judicial treatment of sexual assault victims, and presenting the first county public program on sexual harassment; and

WHEREAS, the commission has succeeded in increasing the representation of women on county boards, authorities, and commissions through its report, "Gender Distribution on Fairfax County Boards, Authorities and Commissions," and by the subsequent establishment of a "talent bank" of women seeking appointment to county service; and

WHEREAS, in 1994 the commission was recognized by the National Association of Commissions for Women among 262 state and local commissions across the nation for its outstanding achievement in helping women in the work place; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend the Fairfax County Commission for Women for its 25 years of dedication to promoting equality and opportunity for women and girls in Fairfax County; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Fairfax County Commission for Women in recognition of its contributions to the status of women in the Commonwealth.

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