

1999 SESSION

INTRODUCED

991557753

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 482

Offered January 21, 1999

Designating the last week in May to be the "Week of the Long-Term Care Giver."

Patron—Walker

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the number of seniors in the Commonwealth is increasing significantly; and

WHEREAS, the population of our nation, our Commonwealth, and our neighborhoods has grown older and more frail in single family and multifamily residences, condominiums, publicly funded housing, assisted living facilities, adult care residences, nursing homes, and hospitals; and

WHEREAS, seniors in need of care receive the same from a variety of individuals, including family, friends, certified nursing assistants, licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, registered nurses certified in geriatrics, therapists, and physicians, with different levels of training and expertise; and

WHEREAS, the most intimate and consistent such care is often provided by individuals who are at the entry level of the long-term care profession and who receive the least financial compensation; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Housing Study Commission, in December 1998, concluded a two-year study of affordable assisted living options for seniors; and

WHEREAS, the Commission found that (due to such factors as the difficult nature of providing such intimate care, the low unemployment rate in the Commonwealth, and the relatively low pay scale for certified nursing assistants and case managers) individuals, agencies, and facilities statewide are challenged in attracting and retaining well-trained, dependable, and compassionate care givers; and

WHEREAS, the Commission study also identified the importance of recognizing the unique contributions of all who care for the elderly who are in need of compassion, encouragement, and assistance, and the importance of fostering career aspirations and the development of potential professional care givers for seniors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly designate the last week in May to be the "Week of the Long-Term Care Giver" in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

INTRODUCED

SJ482