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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 397

Offered January 21, 2011

*Requesting the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and human services agencies to adopt and implement person-centered practices in providing services to citizens.*

Patron—Edwards

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 was founded on four principles: inclusion, full participation, economic self-sufficiency, and equality of opportunity for all people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Older Americans Act of 1965 recognized the need for the comprehensive provision of community-based long-term supports for older Americans; and

WHEREAS, every individual is unique and no two individuals have the exact same support preferences and needs; and

WHEREAS, person-centered practices support individuals in making choices and decisions about the supports that best meet their preferences and needs; and

WHEREAS, Real Choice Systems Change Grants: Systems Transformation, Money Follows the Person, Community Living Program and Options Counseling Grants were awarded to Virginia and other states committed to building an infrastructure to strengthen long-term community supports; and

WHEREAS, Virginia has demonstrated its commitment to building a strong community infrastructure of person-centered long-term supports through all of these grants in order to transform the long-term support system in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, multiple state and local agencies have been actively working to encourage the use of person-centered practices to honor each individual's own choices; and

WHEREAS, multiple state agencies have adopted or are in the process of adopting person-centered principles and language in agency regulations, policies, and procedures and are implementing person-centered practices in their support of individuals who use their services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly request the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and human services agencies to adopt and implement person-centered practices in providing services to citizens; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to Dr. Bill Hazel, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, requesting that he further disseminate copies of this resolution to his respective constituents so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.

INTRODUCED

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