

2013 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 869

Offered February 11, 2013

Commending ChildFund International.

Patron—O'Bannon

WHEREAS, for 75 years, millions of children around the world know that hope comes to them from a city in the United States called Richmond; and

WHEREAS, in October of 1938, ChildFund International was founded in Richmond by Dr. J. Calvitt Clarke as China's Children Fund to assist children in China, many of whom were orphaned by the second Sino-Japanese War; and

WHEREAS, ChildFund International extended its services to children in Asia and Europe at the close of World War II; and

WHEREAS, ChildFund International has grown from its first budget of \$10,000 to an annual budget of more than \$245 million today, with more than 250,000 donors and sponsors who are helping to change childhoods; and

WHEREAS, ChildFund International began working in Africa in the 1970s and adopted a strict "Code of Fundraising Ethics"; and

WHEREAS, ChildFund International created "ChildAlert," a fund to provide emergency interventions and long-term psychosocial recovery assistance to thousands of children living in the most desperate circumstances, as natural disasters, civil unrest, and war grew at alarming rates; and

WHEREAS, ChildFund International conducted a poverty study that debunked many of the myths concerning children and poverty, revealing that children acutely feel poverty, not just through deprivation, but also through exclusion and vulnerability in their communities; and

WHEREAS, ChildFund International's distinctive approach focuses on working with children throughout their journey from birth to young adulthood, as well as with families, local partners, and communities, to create the environments children need to thrive; and

WHEREAS, in 2002 ChildFund International became a founding member of the ChildFund Alliance, a group of 12 international children's organizations around the globe, to create supportive environments in which children can flourish, recognizing that childhood is a one-time opportunity; and

WHEREAS, today, ChildFund International is an international child development and protection agency that serves the world's most vulnerable children in 31 countries and reached 17.8 million children and family members in 2012; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend ChildFund International on the occasion of its 75th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Anne Goddard, president and chief executive officer of ChildFund International, as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for the organization's commitment to helping children around the world.

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