

2015 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 638

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled January 14, 2015

Designating September, in 2015 and in each succeeding year, as Kinship Caregivers of Children Month in Virginia.

Patrons—Hester and Peace

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, every child in the Commonwealth deserves the opportunity to grow and learn in a supportive, loving home environment; and

WHEREAS, nearly three million children in the United States are being raised by grandparents, aunts and uncles, or other relatives, with their parents unable to ensure their safety and well-being; and

WHEREAS, these kinship families provide the best opportunity for children to retain a sense of cultural heritage and community ties; and

WHEREAS, individuals or families caring for a relative's children receive little to no financial support and make numerous personal and financial sacrifices to support children in need; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is committed to reconnecting and strengthening families; kinship families have prevented children from entering the foster care system or have allowed children to leave the foster care system and return to their families; and

WHEREAS, Kinship Caregivers of Children Month reflects the core values of family, community, and the welfare of children shared by all citizens of the Commonwealth and the United States; and

WHEREAS, Virginians are asked to observe Kinship Caregivers of Children Month by taking time to help individuals and families caring for a relative's children and honoring their commitment to ensuring that children have a safe, stable home; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate September, in 2015 and in each succeeding year, as Kinship Caregivers of Children Month in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the Virginia Department of Social Services Foster Care, Family Preservation Program so that staff and participants of the Program may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this month on the General Assembly's website.

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