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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 382

Offered February 29, 2016

Commending Conner Cummings.

Patrons—LeMunyon and Byron; Senators: Ebbin, Favola, Howell, Surovell and Wexton

WHEREAS, Conner Cummings, a courageous resident of Fairfax County, successfully advocated for increased support for Virginians living with disabilities and their families; and

WHEREAS, at 18 months old, Conner Cummings was diagnosed with autism, a neurodevelopmental condition characterized by impaired social interaction and communication and restricted or repetitive behavior; and

WHEREAS, along with his mother, Sharon Cummings, Conner Cummings met with members of the General Assembly and Governor Terence R. McAuliffe and spoke at town hall meetings and other events in support of what became known as Conner's Law; and

WHEREAS, Conner's Law allows for a court to order child support for any child over the age of 18 who is severely or permanently mentally or physically disabled provided that the non-custodial parent is able to afford support; previously many Virginians like Conner Cummings had only received support from their custodial parents; and

WHEREAS, Conner's Law has helped many Virginians struggling with the financial burdens of living with a disability and lessened burdens on state social services and the court system; and

WHEREAS, Conner Cummings and his mother have used social media and the Internet to spread their message, including a video where he spoke the native languages of 18 countries to provide hope and encouragement to people with disabilities throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Conner Cummings and his mother hope to build a national initiative and have begun advocating for similar laws in Maryland and New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Conner Cummings, a devoted advocate for disability rights; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Conner Cummings as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his contributions to Virginians living with disabilities and their families.

INTRODUCED

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