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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 233

Offered February 8, 2018

Commending Neighborhood Health.

Patrons—Krizek, Adams, D.M., Bourne, Boysko, Delaney, Guzman, Heretick, Hope, Landes, Lopez, Plum, Rasoul, Simon, Sullivan, Thomas, Turpin and Ware; Senators: Ebbin, Howell, Lewis, Spruill and Surovell

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Health, a community health center in Northern Virginia that has provided health care to thousands of patients regardless of their ability to pay, celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Health traces its roots to the Arlandria Health Center for Women and Children, a small, Alexandria-based clinic that was opened in 1993 to help serve low-income families; when the clinic's grant funding ended in 1997, a community coalition launched the nonprofit organization Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc., which was later renamed Neighborhood Health; and

WHEREAS, during its early years, Neighborhood Health grew steadily and added additional programs each year; in 2004, it was named a Federally Qualified Health Center, a designation given to organizations that treat all patients regardless of their ethnic background, insurance status, or ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, today, Neighborhood Health has several locations in Alexandria and across Arlington and Fairfax Counties and takes care of roughly 18,000 people each year; half of the patients do not have health insurance, while the rest come from low-income families and other underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Health provides primary medical care for adults and children, including chronic disease management, women's health, urgent care, preventative care such as cancer screenings and vaccines, HIV care, laboratory services, and case management; and

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Health also provides patients with dental and mental health care, both of which are often unavailable to low-income families; the organization operates the WOW Bus, a mobile dentistry unit that provides oral health care to students at local elementary schools; and

WHEREAS, over its two decades in operation, Neighborhood Health has remained committed to the idea that all people deserve access to quality health care; its talented doctors, nurses, and staff members have improved the quality of life for countless residents of Northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Health Resources and Services Administration recognized Neighborhood Health as a National Quality Leader, a designation given to 57 out of approximately 1,400 centers nationwide for quality outcomes; and

WHEREAS, to celebrate its 20 years of service to the local community, Neighborhood Health held an anniversary gala at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center on December 7, 2017; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Neighborhood Health on the occasion of its 20th anniversary for offering exceptional medical care to patients in the City of Alexandria, Arlington County, and Fairfax County; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Neighborhood Health as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for its contributions to public health in Northern Virginia and best wishes for continued success.

INTRODUCED

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