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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 162

Offered February 20, 2018

*Commending the Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, Inc.*

Patrons—Dunnavant, Ebbin and McClellan

WHEREAS, the Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, Inc., a nonprofit organization that supports and advocates for free and charitable local health care facilities, is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2018; and

WHEREAS, since 1993, the Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics has connected a system of 60 nonprofit medical, dental, behavioral health, and pharmaceutical clinics across the Commonwealth for the purpose of providing high quality care each year to almost 70,000 low-income, uninsured patients; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics was established to support the development and progress of such clinics because access to health care is a basic human right; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics provides advocacy, education, technical assistance, leadership development, and other support services to free and charitable clinics so that they are able to concentrate their efforts on improving and saving patients' lives; and

WHEREAS, clinics are part of the fabric of the health care safety net in many communities, especially in rural areas, as they serve patients with chronic and often life-threatening illnesses, such as COPD, hypertension, and diabetes; and

WHEREAS, clinics provide a medical home where patients receive compassionate care; and

WHEREAS, 12,500 volunteer doctors, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, mental health providers, and other professionals share their time and talent to treat patients who would not otherwise receive care; and

WHEREAS, clinics provide more than \$182 million of care annually; and

WHEREAS, free and charitable clinics provide tremendous savings to employers, taxpayers, hospitals, and government assistance programs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, Inc., for its 25 years of service supporting member clinics in their unselfish, compassionate, and generous mission to care for patients in their communities throughout the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, Inc., as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration and appreciation for its important mission to provide health care to low-income, uninsured patients in the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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