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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 95

Offered February 5, 2020

*Commending the Virginia Mediation Network, Inc.*

Patrons—Locke and Edwards

WHEREAS, the Virginia Mediation Network, Inc., one of the only organizations in Virginia dedicated to the craft of mediation, celebrates the 30th anniversary of its incorporation in 2020; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Michael A. Traylor, Susan H. Yoder, Karen Asaro, Angela Cimino-Valentine, Diane L. Bryner, Joanne A. Jackson, Ruby Blair, Denton Walthall, and Thomas N. Walsh founded a group to enhance the professional skills of mediators in Virginia; on September 20, 1990, the Virginia Mediation Network, Inc., was incorporated; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Mediation Network, Inc., has worked to increase public understanding and acceptance of the value of the role of mediation in the expeditious and cost-effective resolution of disputes; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Mediation Network, Inc., spearheaded legislation resulting in the Virginia Administrative Dispute Resolution Act in 2002, which authorizes public bodies to use dispute resolution proceedings in order to achieve mutually agreed-upon settlements of controversial matters without incurring the costs associated with adversarial proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Mediation Network, Inc., is committed to promoting the highest standards of integrity in the provision of mediation services in Virginia and demonstrating the value of the field of alternative dispute resolution and of mediation specifically as tools for peacemaking between and among individuals, groups, units, neighborhoods, or countries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Virginia Mediation Network, Inc., an organization dedicated to helping stakeholders find durable solutions to important issues, on the occasion of its 30th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Vickie R. Williams-Cullins, president of the Virginia Mediation Network, Inc., as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the organization's achievements.

INTRODUCED

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