

## 2021 SPECIAL SESSION II

INTRODUCED

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### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 749

Offered August 2, 2021

*Commending the Virginia Department of Corrections Restrictive Housing Reform for Inmates with Serious Mental Illness Secure Diversionary Treatment Program.*

Patrons—Filler-Corn, Adams, D.M., Ayala, Cole, J.G., Cole, M.L., Delaney, Guzman, Jenkins, Kory, Levine, McQuinn, Mugler, Mundon King, Murphy, Rasoul, Reid, Simon, Simonds, Torian, Watts, Willett and Williams Graves

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Virginia Department of Corrections Restrictive Housing Reform for Inmates with Serious Mental Illness Secure Diversionary Treatment Program received the State Transformation in Action Recognition award from the Southern Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments; and

WHEREAS, each year, the State Transformation in Action Recognition (STAR) award recognizes two government agencies that have enhanced the quality of life in their state through creative, impactful, transferable, and effective solutions; both winners in 2021 were from the Commonwealth, the Virginia Department of Corrections Restrictive Housing Reform for Inmates with Serious Mental Illness Secure Diversionary Treatment Program (SDTP) and a program of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services; and

WHEREAS, a panel of experienced policy professionals selected SDTP as a model of innovation and effectiveness in state government in the Southern region for its success in increasing the safety and security of inmates and staff at correctional facilities by limiting serious incidents, disruptive events, and life-threatening situations; and

WHEREAS, established in 2018, SDTP diverts inmates with serious mental illness into a supportive, treatment-focused environment, where dedicated staff members and a multidisciplinary treatment team can give participants opportunities to address mental illness, improve prosocial behaviors, and strive to become productive members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Corrections has implemented SDTP in three different correctional facilities and 46 inmates graduated from the program in its first three years of operation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Virginia Department of Corrections Restrictive Housing Reform for Inmates with Serious Mental Illness Secure Diversionary Treatment Program hereby be commended on receiving the prestigious State Transformation in Action Recognition award in 2021; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Virginia Department of Corrections Restrictive Housing Reform for Inmates with Serious Mental Illness Secure Diversionary Treatment Program as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the program's work to provide a supportive, treatment-focused environment for inmates with serious mental illness in the Commonwealth's correctional system.

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