

2023 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 429

Commending the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 24, 2023

WHEREAS, for more than 40 years, the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia, a resource and advocacy center based in Arlington, has given people with disabilities critical support to help them live independently and remain active members of the community; and

WHEREAS, the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia traces its roots to 1981, when members of Handicaps Unlimited of Northern Virginia, a coalition of individuals with disabilities, were serving on Fairfax County's International Year of Disabled Persons committee; the committee had the goal to establish an independent living center for Northern Virginia, and ultimately a group was formed which created the independent living center; and

WHEREAS, the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia was officially founded in 1982 and incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1985; it is one of 23 centers for independent living, including satellites, in the Commonwealth and one of more than 400 such centers nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia is a cross-disability organization that works with people of all ages who have every type of disability in the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudoun and the Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church; and

WHEREAS, the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia is run by and for people with disabilities and has developed a unique combination of peer-based self-help services, including peer counseling, independent living skills training, and education on community resources and services; and

WHEREAS, the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia works with local and state entities and community partners to provide a comprehensive range of services, most of which are offered to clients at no cost; and

WHEREAS, the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia helps members of the community improve the quality of their lives, determine their own lifestyles, participate in all aspects of society, and secure their human and civil rights; the center advocates for people with disabilities at local, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia will commemorate its 40th anniversary with a special reception on March 3, 2023; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia hereby be commended on the occasion of its 40th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the organization's achievements in helping people with disabilities participate more fully in community life.

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