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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 661

Offered February 13, 2025

Commending Kimberley Ann Bobo.

Patrons—Carr, Cousins, McQuinn, Rasoul and Willett; Senators: Aird, Bagby and VanValkenburg

WHEREAS, after nine years of visionary leadership, Kimberley Ann Bobo, a devoted advocate for workers' rights, retired as co-executive director of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy; and

WHEREAS, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Kimberley “Kim” Ann Bobo holds a bachelor's degree in religion from Barnard College and a master's degree in economics from the New School for Social Research; and

WHEREAS, Kim Bobo previously served as the founding executive director of Interfaith Worker Justice in Chicago, Illinois, which was the nation's largest faith-based network of people striving to improve wages, benefits, and conditions for workers at the time; and

WHEREAS, Kim Bobo came to the Commonwealth in 2016 to offer her expertise to the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, a non-partisan coalition of 25,000 members that includes 750 houses of worship, 1,000 clergy of all faiths, and many partner and affiliate organizations, all working together to cultivate racial, social, and economic justice; and

WHEREAS, under Kim Bobo's leadership, the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy has brought together people who identify as Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, and Bahai, as well as people of other faiths and people who do not identify with an organized religion, to build a more welcoming and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as executive director of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, Kim Bobo mobilized historic faith advocacy campaigns and exponentially increased the organization's membership through intentional outreach; and

WHEREAS, Kim Bobo supported programs to institute paid sick leave throughout Virginia and raise the Commonwealth's minimum wage and provided leadership to the Healthcare for All Virginians Coalition, which successfully advocated for Medicaid expansion; and

WHEREAS, Kim Bobo is a prolific author on a range of topics related to workers' rights and a sought-after speaker and presenter; she has earned numerous awards and accolades for her professional accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, outside of her career, Kim Bobo is an active member of Wesley United Methodist Church, where she sings in the choir; she is also a member of One Voice Chorus, an interracial community chorus in Richmond that performs throughout Central Virginia; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Kimberley Ann Bobo on the occasion of her retirement as co-executive director of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Kimberley Ann Bobo as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for her achievements in support of workers throughout the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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