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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 703

Offered February 16, 2025

Commending Deborah D. Oswalt.

Patrons—Carr, Bulova, Cousins, Coyner, McQuinn, Orrock and Rasoul; Senators: Bagby and Deeds

WHEREAS, Deborah D. Oswalt retired as the executive director of the Virginia Health Care Foundation, a public-private partnership that supports uninsured and medically underserved individuals, after more than three decades of exceptional leadership; and

WHEREAS, Deborah “Debbie” D. Oswalt began her career as a staff attorney for the Virginia Poverty Law Center, then served as the deputy secretary of health and human services under two Virginia governors, in which capacity she worked closely with state agencies and other stakeholders to regulate, deliver, and monitor health services across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Debbie Oswalt was selected as the founding executive director of the Virginia Health Care Foundation, which was created by the General Assembly and the Joint Commission on Health Care to increase access to primary and preventative care for Virginians in need; and

WHEREAS, under Debbie Oswalt’s leadership, the Virginia Health Care Foundation facilitated nearly \$10 billion in free medicine for patients, enrolled more than 150,000 people in Medicaid, and invested \$68 million to expand the number and scope of health and dental safety net clinics; and

WHEREAS, Debbie Oswalt oversaw the creation of a wide range of innovative programs, including initiatives to address shortages of licensed behavioral health professionals and help seniors better understand health care options; and

WHEREAS, during Debbie Oswalt’s tenure as executive director, the Virginia Health Care Foundation received the Excellence in Virginia Government Award for Innovation in Government from the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University; and

WHEREAS, among many other awards and accolades, Debbie Oswalt has also received the Outstanding Woman in Health and Science Award from the Richmond YWCA, the Child Advocate Award from the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and a Social Justice Maker Award from the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Deborah D. Oswalt on the occasion of her retirement as executive director of the Virginia Health Care Foundation; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Deborah D. Oswalt as an expression of the General Assembly’s admiration for her accomplishments on behalf of uninsured and medically underserved Virginians.

INTRODUCED

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