

2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

24200087D

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 602

Offered May 13, 2024

3 *Commending the English Empowerment Center.*

4
5 Patron—Salim

6 WHEREAS, for 62 years, the English Empowerment Center has provided adults with English language
7 instruction, contributing greatly to their ability to access employment and educational opportunities and to
8 thrive in their communities; and

9 WHEREAS, in recent years, the English Empowerment Center (EEC), formerly the Literacy Council of
10 Northern Virginia, has seen a 25 percent increase in its course registrations, and the organization now teaches
11 more than 2,000 adult learners from more than 95 countries annually, four out of five of whom earn below a
12 living wage; and

13 WHEREAS, at its 14 locations throughout Northern Virginia, EEC is supported by more than 500 trained
14 volunteers, who provided more than 25,000 hours of service in 2023; and

15 WHEREAS, EEC continues to be heralded as a leader in distance learning both locally and nationally,
16 with staff presenting at educational conferences and webinars for the benefit of its counterpart organizations;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, EEC instructor Cassandra Kramer received the Joan E.D. Kushnir Teacher of the Year
19 Award from the Virginia Association for Adult and Continuing Education for her outstanding work with
20 English language learners; and

21 WHEREAS, EEC recently held its second annual Career and Opportunities Fair, where more than 200
22 individuals received valuable information for career, educational, and personal advancement; and

23 WHEREAS, EEC was joined in the event by Northern Virginia employers seeking new colleagues and
24 community service providers eager to share their services for the benefit of others; and

25 WHEREAS, in recognition of its accomplishments, EEC was recently presented a \$1 million grant from
26 the Yield Giving fund, as well as an additional \$45,000 from Arlington County, to support its mission to
27 promote literacy in the community; now, therefore, be it

28 RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That the English Empowerment Center hereby be commended for
29 its efforts to level the playing field for the Northern Virginia community's dynamic and multicultural
30 workforce; and, be it

31 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to
32 Roopal Saran, executive director of the English Empowerment Center, as an expression of the Senate of
33 Virginia's admiration for the organization's contributions to the Commonwealth.

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