

Resolution in Support of Addressing Teacher Shortages in Virginia

January 2018

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Virginia is facing a growing shortage of qualified and diverse teachers in all regions, and certain localities and school divisions are experiencing shortages of significant proportions;

Whereas, teachers are an important factor in the quality of a child’s education, and therefore critical to the success of Virginia’s educational system;

Whereas, without sufficient quality and quantity of teachers for every classroom, an increasing number of Virginians will be unprepared to succeed in the workforce and to pursue the postsecondary educational opportunities that are prerequisites for prosperity in the 21st century’s increasingly knowledge-based economy;

Whereas, the education and training of a state’s workforce is the top factor companies consider when choosing where to locate or expand, and the Commonwealth’s ability to retain and attract businesses requires a work-ready labor pool;

Whereas, addressing the shortage of qualified teachers is crucial for the Commonwealth’s economic growth; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the organizations below recognize teacher shortages as a critical issue that, left unaddressed, will jeopardize its members and other companies in their ability to recruit the qualified workforce they need, and ultimately compromise their economic success and that of residents in Virginia; and

Be it further resolved that the organizations below support policies and initiatives designed to reduce teacher shortages by increasing the supply of potential teachers in Virginia and improving the retention of existing qualified teachers, including removing unnecessary obstacles to entering the teaching profession; better preparing teachers for the challenges of today’s classrooms; providing teachers the tools and support they need to succeed; and strengthening teachers’ total compensation; and

Be it further resolved that the organizations below commit to working in partnership with educators and administrators to implement solutions that address the shortage of teachers in the Commonwealth.

Endorsed by:

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAMBER PARTNERSHIP



Additional Supporters:

