

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 376

By Ragan

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Community Mediation Services, Inc., upon the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary organizations that are a credit to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such notable organization is Community Mediation Services (CMS), Inc., which was established in 1986 and is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary; and

WHEREAS, CMS provides three different mediation programs for residents of Anderson County; all of the mediations are conducted by highly-trained volunteers and are provided free of charge; and

WHEREAS, CMS's original program is the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP), which allows first-time juvenile property offenders to sit down face-to-face with a volunteer mediator and the victims to work out a restitution plan; this process gives the victim an opportunity to speak and be heard and begin the healing process while the offender develops an understanding of how his actions impacted others; and

WHEREAS, research conducted by the University of Tennessee shows that juveniles who complete the VORP program are much less likely to commit future crimes than those who did not participate; and

WHEREAS, CMS has created Teen/Parent Mediation (TPM), a program that allows teenagers and the caregivers with whom they have conflicts to come to a mutually agreeable solution with the help of volunteer mediators; and

WHEREAS, most of the teenagers in the TPM program are referred via juvenile court due to status offenses such as running away or being unruly; and

WHEREAS, CMS also provides Access/Visitation Mediation, a program specifically for never-married parents who are having difficulty with visitation issues; in these cases, there are no divorce decrees, so there is no co-parenting plan that enables the child to have meaningful relationships with both parents; and

WHEREAS, as CMS celebrates its twenty-fifth year of outstanding service, it is appropriate to honor the organization for helping to ensure that the welfare of this state's citizens is not only a top priority, but is of the highest caliber; and

WHEREAS, CMS and its volunteers are most assuredly worthy of this General Assembly's recognition and approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Community Mediation Services, Inc., and its volunteers for their meritorious service to the residents of Anderson County, congratulate them on the occasion of the organization's twenty-fifth anniversary, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.