



# CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

*By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of Virginia in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:*

## **MARCH IS MEDIATION MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Mediation Network, the Virginia Association for Community Conflict Resolution, the Virginia Collaborative Professionals, the Virginia Center for Consensus Building at Virginia Commonwealth University, and the Joint Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee are entities that support quality dispute resolution services; and

**WHEREAS**, 2017 marks the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the dispute resolution proceedings statute that continues to play an important role in institutionalizing the use of mediation in the courts in Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, Dispute Resolution Services in the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia continues to administer the mediator certification program, providing a way for the public to locate a mediator for individual services; and

**WHEREAS**, with continued adherence to the 2002 Virginia Administrative Dispute Resolution Act, governmental entities in the Commonwealth, including the Department of Human Resource Management, the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission, the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, the Department of Education, and the Fairfax County Consumer Affairs Branch, are demonstrating a commitment to application of creative problem solving when faced with complex issues and disputes; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia's universities, colleges, and law schools often incorporate mediation into their curricula and programs; leaders, managers, and supervisors apply mediation practices and skills in the workplace; and not-for-profit community-based dispute resolution centers provide opportunities to resolve issues effectively and affordably in communities; and

**WHEREAS**, mediators and other dispute resolution practitioners, through their significant expertise in helping stakeholders find durable solutions to important issues, have demonstrated the value of the field of alternative dispute resolution and the value of mediation as a tool for peacemaking between and among individuals, groups, neighborhoods, and countries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of Virginia continues to be a leader in promoting the use of such principles and practices;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Terence R. McAuliffe, do hereby recognize March 2017 as **MARCH IS MEDIATION MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



  
Governor

  
Secretary of the Commonwealth