



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 Joint Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee of the Virginia Bar Association, the Virginia Association for Community Conflict Resolution, the Virginia Collaborative Professionals, and the Virginia State Bar are professional entities that contribute to quality dispute resolution services; and

WHEREAS, 2016 marks the 23rd anniversary of the passage of the dispute resolution proceedings statutes in Virginia legislation that continue to play an important role in institutionalizing the use of mediation in the courts; 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 Education, the Department of Human Resource Management, the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission, the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, and the Fairfax County Consumer Affairs Branch demonstrate a commitment to the application of creative problem-solving for complex issues and disputes; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's universities, colleges and law schools often incorporate mediation into their curriculum 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 2016 as **MARCH IS MEDIATION MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Handwritten signature of Terence R. McAuliffe in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Jewell M. Taylor in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Secretary of the Commonwealth