

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 492 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY B. BOYLE, MCGEEHAN, BISHOP, K. BOYLE, V. BROWN,
BROWNLEE, COHEN, CURRY, DONATUCCI, JOHNSON, JOSEPHS,
W. KELLER, MYERS, M. O'BRIEN, PARKER, PAYTON, ROEBUCK,
THOMAS, WILLIAMS AND YOUNGBLOOD, NOVEMBER 1, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
NOVEMBER 1, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Counseling Or Referral Assistance (CORA) Services, a
2 private, nonprofit organization offering professional human
3 services to children, youth and their families, for its four
4 decades of service to the people of Philadelphia.

5 WHEREAS, In 1971, with the investment and support of the Good
6 Shepherd Sisters and funded by a small State grant, Sister M.
7 Charity Kohl founded CORA Services as a community-based
8 counseling center in the Fox Chase section of Philadelphia; and

9 WHEREAS, Focusing on direct, individualized early intervention
10 and prevention services to at-risk school-age children and their
11 families, CORA Services helped over 600 families in the
12 organization's first year, with a budget of just \$135,000; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1975, the agency began offering services to all
14 nonpublic school students in lower and upper Northeast
15 Philadelphia and over the next few years, established a
16 preschool program, a summer camp and GED services for high
17 school dropouts; and

1 WHEREAS, Rooted in a tradition of care and compassion, the
2 mission of CORA Services is to assist children, youth and families
3 experiencing emotional, academic and social challenges which impede
4 development and productivity; and

5 WHEREAS, Today, with a budget of over \$11,000,000, CORA Services
6 supports a professional staff of more than 200 educators,
7 counselors, psychologists and speech and language teachers and
8 serves children and families in more than 100 nonpublic schools and
9 public schools, recreation centers and community centers; and

10 WHEREAS, More than 25,000 families annually participate in
11 one or more of the services offered through five major CORA
12 service programs - Nonpublic School Services, Community
13 Services, Early Years Preschool Program, The Neumann Center and
14 Out of School Services; and

15 WHEREAS, Together, these programs provide a wide variety of
16 services, including day care, educational and speech
17 remediation, individual, group and family counseling, drug and
18 alcohol rehabilitation and career counseling, and were each
19 developed in response to a demonstrated need in the community;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Most recently, CORA Services has established after-
22 school programs and community-based organizing efforts in the
23 Frankford and Olney neighborhoods of Philadelphia; and

24 WHEREAS, The organization is currently developing
25 relationships with a number of charter schools in the city,
26 offering CORA programs while looking for new ways to assist
27 students; and

28 WHEREAS, Recent efforts to help children and families deal
29 with autism and other spectrum disorders find CORA staff working
30 with programs that support those needs; and

1 WHEREAS, As a leading nonprofit agency, CORA Services has
2 assisted hundreds of thousands of clients with professional
3 guidance, providing new perspectives, direction, empowerment and
4 hope for children, youth and families; and

5 WHEREAS, The year 2011 marks the 40th anniversary of CORA
6 Services; and

7 WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper that the House of
8 Representatives recognize an organization that is committed to
9 helping children, youth and families with problems by intervening
10 within the interlocking environment of home, school, culture and
11 community; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and
13 commend Counseling Or Referral Assistance (CORA) Services for
14 its four decades of service to the children and families of
15 Philadelphia; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
17 CORA Services, Inc., 8540 Verree Road, Philadelphia,
18 Pennsylvania 19111.