

---

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.