



PROCLAMATION

HEALTHCARE DECISIONS

- WHEREAS,** *Healthcare Decisions recognition events are designed to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead for health care decisions related to end of life care and medical decision-making whenever people are unable to speak for themselves and to encourage the specific use of Advance Directives to communicate these important health care decisions; and*
- WHEREAS,** *it is important for all individuals 18 and older to exercise their right to have their voices heard during the point in their life when they may not be able to express those wishes for their families and caregivers. It is estimated that only about 20% of Virginians have executed an Advance Directive due to lack of knowledge and confusion; and*
- WHEREAS,** *a principal goal of Healthcare Decisions related events is to encourage health care providers and community leaders to participate in a State-wide effort to provide clear and consistent information to the public about advance directives, as well as to encourage medical professionals and lawyers to volunteer their time and efforts to improve public knowledge and increase the number of citizens with advance directives; and*
- WHEREAS,** *JABA, University of Virginia Health System, Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital, Hospice of the Piedmont, and other organizations throughout this community have endorsed this effort and are committed to educating the public about the importance of discussing health care choices and executing advance directives; and*
- WHEREAS,** *as a result the promotion of Healthcare Decision Events more citizens will have conversations about their health care decisions; more citizens will execute Advance Directives to make their wishes known; and **fewer families and health care providers will have to struggle with making difficult health care decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient;***
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** *that we, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, do hereby recognize **May 2016**, as **HEALTHCARE DECISIONS MONTH** in Albemarle County, and call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.*

Signed and sealed this 4th day of May, 2016

*Liz Palmer, Chair
Albemarle Board of County Supervisors*