**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY’S HOPE LODGE IN CHARLESTON COUNTY FOR FORTY YEARS OF PROVIDING VITAL AND COMPASSIONATE SUPPORT FOR CANCER PATIENTS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS IN THE PALMETTO STATE.

Whereas, the American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community‑based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy, and service; and

Whereas, by these efforts the overall, age‑adjusted cancer mortality rate is declining for the first time in human history and should continue to do so; and

Whereas, people are alive today because the knowledge we have gained has translated directly into primary prevention, early detection, and improved treatment; and

Whereas, the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge in Charleston, South Carolina, was founded in 1970 as the first Hospital Hospitality House in the nation, with a grant from the Exchange Club of Charleston and under the leadership of the late Margot Freudenberg, R.P.T; and

Whereas, there are now thirty‑one Hope Lodges, three Hope Lodge Connections, and four additional Hope Lodges in development throughout the country; and

Whereas, an integral part of the American Cancer Society Mission “To Create More Birthdays” is addressed as Hope Lodge provides a free “home away from home” to cancer patients living throughout the State of South Carolina who otherwise would not have been able to drive to and from their cancer treatments; and

Whereas, Hope Lodge provides a strong support network and access to cancer information, resources, and programs designed to enhance the quality of life of cancer patients and caregivers; and

Whereas, Hope Lodge has provided over 79,000 nights of free lodging to cancer patients in our forty years of existence, thereby saving cancer patients and their family members, primarily from South Carolina, an estimated $9,310,000; and

Whereas, South Carolina hospitals were able to attract more patients to enroll in clinical trials and new treatments in order to advance the treatment of cancer patients everywhere; and

Whereas, patients had greater access to care and a higher percentage of completion of treatment and reported an over‑all better treatment experience due to their stay with the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and commend the outstanding work of the American Cancer Society’s Hope Lodge in Charleston County for forty years of providing vital and compassionate support for cancer patients and their caregivers in the Palmetto State.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Sundi Herring, manager of Hope Lodge in Charleston.

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