**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE PITT HOPKINS RESEARCH FOUNDATION FOR ITS OUTSTANDING WORK IN RAISING AWARENESS AND FUNDING FOR PITT HOPKINS SYNDROME AND TO DECLARE SEPTEMBER 18, 2014, AS “PITT HOPKINS SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the newly established Pitt Hopkins Research Foundation (PHRF) celebrated its launch on September 18, 2013, as the first annual International Pitt Hopkins Syndrome Day, the organization’s worthy goal being the raising of Pitt Hopkins awareness and funding for Pitt Hopkins research; and

Whereas, since Pitt Hopkins Syndrome (PTHS) is caused by a spontaneous mutation on the eighteenth chromosome, the eighteenth was seen as a particularly appropriate date for the occasion; and

Whereas, although the disorder is most likely underdiagnosed, PTHS is a neurodevelopmental disorder with approximately four hundred diagnosed cases worldwide. The cause of PTHS is known, but there are currently no treatments available for it; and

Whereas, the specific mission of the PHRF is to support research dedicated to finding a treatment and an eventual cure for PTHS and other similar disorders. The PHRF is also dedicated to supporting the PTHS community with resource recommendations, parental support, and the latest medical information; and

Whereas, the gene that causes Pitt Hopkins, TCF4 on the eighteenth chromosome, is actually a transcription factor, which means that it regulates many other genes—genes that are implicated in autism, schizophrenia, and other neurological disorders. Further, TCF4 abnormalities are implicated in liver disease and corneal endothelial dystrophy. Therefore, PHRF’s research has the potential to reach far beyond Pitt Hopkins and help many; and

Whereas, grateful for the fine accomplishments of the PHRF, the House of Representatives is pleased to salute the organization and wish it much success in the days ahead as it pursues its important mission. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and congratulate the Pitt Hopkins Research Foundation for its outstanding work in raising awareness and funding for Pitt Hopkins Syndrome and declare September 18, 2014, as “Pitt Hopkins Syndrome Awareness Day” in South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Pitt Hopkins Research Foundation.

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