**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR MS. BARBARA G. HOLLIS, COMMISSIONER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT, UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT, TO EXTEND DEEP APPRECIATION FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE, AND TO OFFER BEST WISHES FOR A SATISFYING AND REWARDING RETIREMENT.

Whereas, since 1988, Ms. Barbara G. Hollis has given her time and talents to the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department. She will retire on January 2, 2016; and

Whereas, Ms. Hollis joined the SCVRD as a counselor in 1988, and after serving successfully in several other key positions, she became commissioner in January 2009, a position in which she directs the agency of approximately 1200 full-time employees; and

Whereas, during her time as commissioner, she guided the agency through a period of significant budget reductions and the economic downturn, which greatly impacted employment opportunities for agency clients. After the recession, she successfully worked to generate support for restoration of funding and staffing; and

Whereas, Ms. Hollis recognized the state’s critical need for enhanced school-to-work transition services for students with disabilities well in advance of new federal regulations requiring greater emphasis on that population; and

Whereas, in addition to her foresight with regard to students with disabilities, Ms. Hollis also implemented a quality initiative emphasizing a “one person at a time” approach in assisting clients by providing individualized services and training to enhance their self-sufficiency and quality of life through successful employment which fulfills business and industry partner needs for well-prepared employees who can meet the demands of the state’s labor market; and

Whereas, Ms. Hollis has also been active in vocational rehabilitation leadership among the Southeast region state directors and nationally with the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation, where her expertise and insight were highly sought; and

Whereas, Ms. Hollis is from Chesterfield, South Carolina and is a resident of Cayce. She earned a bachelor of science degree in psychology and a master of education degree in rehabilitation counseling from the University of South Carolina; and

Whereas, under her direction, the agency has continued to be a national leader in cost-effectiveness per rehabilitation and in the number of successful employment outcomes in proportion to population; and

Whereas, the members of the Senate are grateful for her many years of dedicated service to the department and for her passionate and clear focus on the needs of those with disabilities. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, honor Ms. Barbara G. Hollis upon the occasion of her retirement, extend deep appreciation for her years of service, and offer best wishes for a satisfying and rewarding retirement.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Ms. Barbara G. Hollis.

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