**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2017, AS “SPEECH AND DEBATE EDUCATION DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO COMMEND THOSE WHO DEDICATE THEIR TIME OFFERING SPEECH AND DEBATE OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDENTS IN THE PALMETTO STATE.

Whereas, in 1925, the National Speech & Debate Association was created to recognize and support students participating in speech and debate activities. On March 3, 2017, in conjunction with the national observance, South Carolina will celebrate Speech and Debate Education Day; and

Whereas, this event, established by the National Speech & Debate Association with the help of national and local partners, serves to promote better instruction in speech and debate across all grade levels and to highlight the pivotal roles the abilities associated with these subjects play in personal advocacy, social movements, and public policy making; and

Whereas, speech and debate education helps students develop important skills in communication, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration through the practice of public speaking. Participants learn not only to analyze and express complex ideas effectively but also to listen, concur, question, or dissent with reason and compassion; and

Whereas, across the country, countless educators devote in‑school, after‑school, and weekend time to supporting their students in speech and debate practices and competitions. The example of hard work and dedication they set has lasting, positive impact on their pupils; and

Whereas, in addition, on March 3-4, 2017, the South Carolina Forensic Coaches Association will host the state speech and debate tournament. The House of Representatives wishes luck to all those participating; and

Whereas, the skills learned through speech and debate serve students well throughout their lives, and this occasion presents a welcome opportunity to recognize such instruction as an essential component of a well‑rounded curriculum. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, declare Friday, March 3, 2017, as “Speech and Debate Education Day” in South Carolina and commend those who dedicate their time offering speech and debate opportunities to students in the Palmetto State.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Gail Nicholas, South Carolina district chair for the National Speech & Debate Association.

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