**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE CHILDREN’S SECURITY BLANKET AND THE CHILDHOOD CANCER OPTIMIST CLUB OF SOUTH CAROLINA UPON THE OCCASION OF CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN SEPTEMBER 2017, FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING SUPPORT TO SOUTH CAROLINA FAMILIES FACING THE CHALLENGES IMPOSED BY CHILDHOOD CANCER, AND TO WISH THEM SUCCESS IN GROWING THEIR ORGANIZATIONS SO THAT MORE FAMILIES MAY BE SERVED.

Whereas, childhood cancer continues to impact families across South Carolina with over two hundred children joining the thousands who are already receiving treatment for this devastating disease each year. Families facing the daunting challenge of childhood cancer need access to the best possible medical care and emotional support available, with many needing financial help as well; and

Whereas, it is fitting that the members of the South Carolina General Assembly should pause in their deliberations to express their gratitude to The Children’s Security Blanket for its significant efforts to offer vital financial assistance, resources, and emotional support to South Carolina children battling cancer and their families; and

Whereas, The Children’s Security Blanket has been instrumental in providing support to families struggling with cancer, beginning as a project of the Spartanburg Optimist Club in 1999, and becoming a nonprofit organization in 2006. Initially, this organization served only children in Spartanburg, but in June 2016, it expanded Statewide and has provided care to hundreds of families across the State; and

Whereas, furthermore, Optimist International has formed The Childhood Cancer Optimist Club of South Carolina to build awareness and support for The Children’s Security Blanket; and

Whereas, in addition to financial help, The Children’s Security Blanket provides assistance with making travel arrangements and accessing other resources for these families during their time of crisis; and

Whereas, when these children need joy and families desire a chance to make memories, The Children’s Security Blanket offers special events and a unique summer experience, Camp Victory, to create enjoyable opportunities and provide families the chance to unite with others who share their challenges; and

Whereas, The Childhood Cancer Optimist Club diligently works to raise funds to support the important work of The Children’s Security Blanket while serving as advocates, increasing awareness, and building resources for the organization in communities throughout South Carolina; and

Whereas, the efforts of these two groups and the services they provide have contributed greatly to the well‑being and quality of life of many South Carolina children and families and helped parents and children cope with the emotional and financial stresses that accompany cancer treatment; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are grateful for the years of committed care and support that The Children’s Security Blanket and the Childhood Cancer Optimists Club have given to children and families of the Palmetto State and wish them success as they strive to grow their organizations to enable them to serve more families in need. 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 honor The Children’s Security Blanket and the Childhood Cancer Optimist Club of South Carolina upon the occasion of Childhood Cancer Awareness month in September 2017, for their commitment to providing support to South Carolina families facing the challenges imposed by childhood cancer, and wish them success in growing their organizations so that more families may be served.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the leadership of both The Children’s Security Blanket and The Childhood Cancer Optimist Club.

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