**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE MARCH 2, 2018, AS NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE EDUCATION DAY IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that the National Speech and Debate Association is celebrating National Speech and Debate Education Day in conjunction with national and local partners on March 2, 2018; and

Whereas, this event serves to promote better instruction in speech and debate across all grade levels and to highlight the pivotal role these abilities 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; and

Whereas, those who participate in speech and debate 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 support their students in speech and debate practices and competitions, and the example of hard work and dedication they set has lasting, positive impact on their pupils; and

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

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciate the efforts of the National Speech and Debate Association to encourage educators throughout our great State to inculcate the principles of speech and debate into the lives of our students. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, declare March 2, 2018, as National Speech and Debate Education Day in the State of South Carolina.

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