**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE APRIL 2018 AS THE “MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD” IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO ENCOURAGE SOUTH CAROLINA’S CONTINUED COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT FOR MILITARY CHILDREN LIVING IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, South Carolina has approximately thirty‑seven thousand children connected with the military (over twenty‑five thousand of school‑age) and an uncounted number of children connected with veterans; and

Whereas, military children face an average of seven to nine relocations and school transitions during their school years, creating disruptions due to separation from family and friends, as well as the necessity of adjusting to new schools and environs; and

Whereas, programs, such as those of the Military Child Education Coalition, supported by the General Assembly, are taking significant steps to compensate for the adverse impact of mobility, family separation, and transitions on our military and veteran children in the State; and

Whereas, programs, such as those of the National Math and Science Initiative, supported by the Department of Defense and several industries in South Carolina, are providing enriched curriculum in some of our military communities, helping to produce better educational outcomes for our military children; and

Whereas, despite the difficult challenges confronting military and veteran children, according to the South Carolina Department of Education, these students in South Carolina out‑perform their peers in English language arts, mathematics, and science. In fact, the high school graduation rate for military children in South Carolina is higher than in the civilian population; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly recognize the contributions that military children make in our State and reaffirm our commitment by encouraging communities to welcome military families through the office of military liaisons, parent‑to‑parent programs, and support for military spouse employment. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly of South Carolina, by this resolution, declare April 2018 as the “Month of the Military Child” in South Carolina and encourage South Carolina’s continued commitment and support for military children living in South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the South Carolina Military Base Task Force.

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