**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE BAPTIST EDUCATIONAL AND MISSIONARY CONVENTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND ITS MEMBER CHURCHES FOR THE EDUCATIONAL, SPIRITUAL, AND MISSIONARY GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT THEY HAVE PROVIDED TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA SINCE 1877.

Whereas, the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina was founded in 1877 by a group of black men who came together for a twofold purpose: to enhance the quality of life in their churches and to provide a means of bringing churches together on a statewide basis to address the educational needs of African Americans of all ages; and

Whereas, keeping in mind its overarching objective of promoting the cause of Christ everywhere, especially in South Carolina, the organization holds that one of the best ways of accomplishing this objective is to aid Christian education in general and, in particular, to establish and support a well‑equipped college that offers high‑quality theological and literary training to young African‑American men and women; and

Whereas, accordingly, the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina, composed of 1,100 Baptist churches and 230,000 individual members across the State of South Carolina, provides financial support to Morris College of Sumter, established in 1908 by the convention, and Benedict College of Columbia, founded in 1870 by the American Baptist Home Mission Society; and

Whereas, today, Morris College and Benedict College are fully accredited four‑year institutions of higher learning, and both of these coeducational liberal‑arts colleges offer a wide variety of baccalaureate degrees; and

Whereas, designed to aid the whole person, the ministries of the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina are varied and reach into many aspects of the lives of those it seeks to assist. These programs include the health, prison, evangelism commission, stewardship commission, worship commission, Christian-education commission, and political-action commission ministries; and

Whereas, appreciative of the convention’s many contributions to the citizens of this great State, the South Carolina Senate wishes to recognize Dr. Benjamin D. Snoddy for his visionary leadership as president of the convention; the churches of the convention for the spiritual guidance they provide to their membership; and the convention itself for the varied services it provides and for its longstanding support of Morris and Benedict colleges, as well as Friendship College of Rock Hill. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and commend the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina and its member churches for the educational, spiritual, and missionary guidance and support they have provided to the people of South Carolina since 1877.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina.

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