**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA TOBACCO COLLABORATIVE FOR THEIR ADVOCACY TO INCREASE SOUTH CAROLINA’S CIGARETTE TAX.

Whereas, the South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative was founded in 2001 as a statewide consortium of the leading public health organizations, businesses, and individuals committed to reducing the toll of tobacco use in South Carolina; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative include the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, South Carolina Cancer Alliance, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, South Carolina Hospital Association, South Carolina Medical Association, March of Dimes, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and the United Way Association of South Carolina; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative has advocated since its founding for a significant increase in South Carolina’s lowest-in-the-nation cigarette tax; and

Whereas, more than one hundred independent studies have proven that raising the price of cigarettes is one of the most effective means of keeping children from starting to smoke; and

Whereas, a significant increase in the state cigarette tax will protect South Carolina’s children from the devastating toll of tobacco; and

Whereas, the new cigarette tax increase will provide recurring funding for tobacco prevention and cessation programs, thus helping South Carolina save lives by reducing smoking-caused heart disease, lung cancer, and other diseases; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative and its member organizations rallied thousands of volunteers to advocate for a cigarette tax increase to improve our state’s public health; and

Whereas, the 2010 increase in South Carolina’s cigarette tax has been applauded by public health organizations and advocates across the United States. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, recognize each of the members of the South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative for their dedicated work to improving public health in South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative and its member organizations.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑