**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. JEANNE L. WARD OF OCONEE COUNTY FOR HER ADVOCACY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE STATE, AND TO CONGRATULATE HER FOR BEING NAMED THE AMBASSADOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR OCONEE COUNTY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Dr. Jeanne L. Ward will be named the Ambassador of Economic Development for Oconee County by the South Carolina Department of Commerce at an award ceremony on January 26, 2010; and

Whereas, Jeanne Ward received a nursing degree in Pennsylvania from Williamsport Hospital School of Nursing, and a bachelor of science degree from St. Joseph College in Maine, and a master’s degree in public health from the University of Minnesota; and

Whereas, from Clemson University she received a doctorate in education and has used her medical and educational skills to benefit the economic development of her community and county; and

Whereas, as president and chief executive officer of one of Oconee County’s largest employers, Jeanne Ward led the effort to build a new patient tower to replace all of the inpatient beds at Oconee Medical Center, overcoming all the challenges that had stopped the project in the past; and

Whereas, in less than half a year the number of patients served by the facility increased more than thirty percent, which has allowed the center to add several dozen jobs and has encouraged fewer patients to leave the county for medical care, keeping revenue in the county that had been going to neighboring counties; and

Whereas, under her leadership, the medical center has recruited more than forty new physicians to the community, whose practices have also kept revenue in the county and whose incomes have boosted the local economy substantially; and

Whereas, as one of the leading advocates for economic development in the community, Jeanne Ward serves as the chairperson and one of the founders of the Oconee Alliance, an organization that brings together leaders from the community for educational sessions to enhance and improve local economic development; and

Whereas, the Oconee Alliance under her direction sponsored the development of the Oconee by Choice: 20 Year Vision, which lays out the goals of the community in the areas of planning, education, employment, tourism, health, and the environment; and

Whereas, Jeanne Ward’s exceptional talents have made her an asset as she serves on the board of trustees and as the chairperson of the Quality Committee of the South Carolina Hospital Association, as a fellow with the American College of Healthcare Executives, and as a member of both the Oconee County Economic Development Commission and the American Organization of Nurse Executives; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to pause in their deliberations to acknowledge with sincere gratitude the contributions of Dr. Jeanne L. Ward and the pride and distinction she has brought to her community and her county. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Dr. Jeanne L. Ward of Oconee County for her advocacy of economic development in the State, and congratulate her for being named the Ambassador of Economic Development for Oconee County.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Jeanne L. Ward.

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