**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE STRONG COMMITMENT AND DEEP APPRECIATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LOYAL AND DEDICATED EMPLOYEES OF THIS STATE BY SUPPORTING A STATE EMPLOYEE COST OF LIVING INCREASE IN THE 2012‑2013 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT.

Whereas, state employees are one of our State’s most valuable resources. These employees, their dedication and commitment to excellence, as demonstrated so many times and in so many ways, day after day, year after year, are the foundation of our state government; and

Whereas, through every task accomplished and problem solved, with each new idea and better practice created, the delivery and quality of services for all South Carolinians are improved; and

Whereas, state employees work not only for the citizens of South Carolina, but they also play a vital role in economic development and are an important resource for success that South Carolina businesses rely upon; and

Whereas, there are approximately 58,700 full‑time state employees, sixty‑two percent of whom earn between $15,000 and $35,000 a year; these employees provide hundreds of thousands of hours on a daily basis for the efficient and effective operation of this State; and

Whereas, since 2001 merit pay increases have not been provided for South Carolina State employees; since July 2007 state employees have received no cost‑of‑living increase; and there is a twenty percent deficit when comparing state employee salaries today with what these salaries would be if they were adjusted for inflation; yet these employees have remained committed and loyal to the State throughout these difficult economic times, enduring decreases in salaries, base pay reductions, and recurring furlough days; and

Whereas, with a promising upturn in the economic forecast, providing a much needed cost of living increase should receive the highest priority in formulating the state’s 2012‑2013 budget; and

Whereas, it is proper and fitting for the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives to lead the way in demonstrating the respect and gratitude the General Assembly has for all` state employees, their tireless efforts, and dedicated service by supporting a cost of living increase. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, express the strong commitment and deep appreciation to the loyal and dedicated employees of this State by supporting a state employee cost of living increase in the 2012‑2013 General Appropriations Act.

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