**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE THE WEEK OF MAY 7 THROUGH MAY 11, 2012, AS NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL WEEK, AND TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATING THE CHILDREN OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN INNOVATIVE CLASSROOMS AND SCHOOLS.

Whereas, the first charter school law was enacted in Minnesota in 1991, and by 1992, the first charter school opened and continues to teach youths in an innovative and flexible fashion; and

Whereas, forty‑one states and the District of Columbia have charter schools, numbering nearly five thousand schools in operation with an enrollment of over one million six hundred thousand students; and

Whereas, since the South Carolina charter school law was first enacted in 1996 and further amended in 2002, 2005, and 2012, South Carolina has opened a myriad of public charter schools and currently, has forty‑seven that serve over seventeen thousand children. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize May 7 through May 11, 2012, as National Charter School Week, and acknowledge the importance of educating the children of South Carolina in innovative classrooms and schools.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to State Superintendent of Education Mick Zais; Mr. Don McLaurin, Chairman of the South Carolina Public Charter School District Board of Directors; and Ms. Mary Carmichael, Executive Director of the Public Charter School Alliance of South Carolina.

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