**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND GRATITUDE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE TO DEBORAH FRANCIS ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AND TO WISH HER GREAT SUCCESS ON ALL OF HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, Debbie Francis has more than thirty‑five years of public service to her community in various leadership positions within the healthcare field, most recently as President and CEO of Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council (LRADAC), a non‑profit organization; and

Whereas, Ms. Francis led various departments of the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services including Pharmaceutical Services, Hospital and Hospital Reimbursement, Physician Services, and served as the Deputy Director of the Office of Programs; and

Whereas, Ms. Francis furthered her knowledge on health care administration by pursuing her Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina, School of Law. Her practice in health law at Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A. provided Ms. Francis a platform to focus on regulatory, governmental affairs, and third party payors, particularly Medicaid and Medicare compliance, reimbursement and policy issues; and

Whereas, in her current capacity as President and CEO, Ms. Francis spearheaded the organization’s relocation to new state‑of‑the‑art facilities by securing support from government sources. Under her leadership, LRADAC has become recognized as the premier provider of prevention, intervention, and treatment services for substance use disorders to the citizens of Richland and Lexington Counties; and

Whereas, Ms. Francis has faithfully served the alcohol and drug abuse treatment and prevention industry through her stewardship in multiple leadership roles of the South Carolina Behavioral Health Services Association, including president. The Behavioral Health Services Association consists of community‑based organizations that provide comprehensive prevention, intervention and treatment to citizens in need of alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse services; and

Whereas, Ms. Francis has served the citizens of Lexington and Richland Counties, the greater Midlands area, and the State of South Carolina through her important roles that received service recognition awards from the Drug Enforcement Administration (Certificate of Appreciation, August 1989), United Way of South Carolina (Healthy Start Grant Recognition, April 1992), Department of Health and Environmental Control (Maternal and Child Health Day Special Recognition Award, December 1996), the YWCA Midlands Tribute to Women and Industry (Certificate of Recognition, May 2000), and the South Carolina House of Representatives Republican Women’s Caucus (Woman of Achievement Award, 2010). Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the Senate, by this resolution, offer our sincere congratulations and appreciation to Deborah Francis for her many years of dedicated service and wish her an abundance of happiness and health upon her retirement.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Ms. Deborah Francis.

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