**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE BELIEF OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT LITERACY IS A VITAL AND FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT OF THE WELL‑BEING OF EVERY CITIZEN OF SOUTH CAROLINA FORMING THE FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION LEADING TO IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE AND A WELL‑PREPARED WORKFORCE THEREBY AIDING SOUTH CAROLINA IN ATTRACTING BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY AND ADVANCING THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF OUR BELOVED STATE, AND TO NAME THE WEEK OF MARCH 2, 2014, THROUGH MARCH 8, 2014, AS “READERS‑2‑LEADERS LITERACY AWARENESS WEEK” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, Leadership South Carolina was established in 1979 by the Governor’s Office and the South Carolina business community; and

Whereas, Leadership South Carolina is the oldest and most respected of the statewide leadership programs in the State and provides gifted and highly motivated South Carolinians an opportunity to advance their leadership qualities while broadening their understanding of issues facing the State; and

Whereas, the Leadership South Carolina Class of 2014 seeks to raise awareness about literacy across the State of South Carolina with its “Readers‑2‑Leaders” program; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Comprehensive Literacy Plan defines literacy as the ability to read, write, speak, and listen in order to process information, make meaning, and effectively communicate with others; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Comprehensive Literacy Plan states that literacy is an active and complex process, which develops from a strong foundation of early skills and experiences allowing a person to think and respond critically; and

Whereas, literacy is a vital and fundamental element of the well‑being of every citizen of South Carolina forming the foundation for education and communication; and

Whereas, the ability to read, write, and communicate with others contributes to high self‑esteem among the citizenry of South Carolina leading to improved quality of life; and

Whereas, a workforce of literate citizens is an essential and critical element that will allow South Carolina to enhance its competitive advantage with other states and nations in attracting and retaining business and industry in a global economy. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, express the belief that literacy is a vital and fundamental element of the well‑being of every citizen of South Carolina forming the foundation for education and communication leading to improved quality of life and a well‑prepared workforce thereby aiding South Carolina in attracting business and industry and advancing the economic interests of our beloved State.

Be it further resolved that the week of March 2, 2014, through March 8, 2014, be officially recognized as “Readers‑2‑Leaders Literacy Awareness Week” in South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Leadership South Carolina and the South Carolina State Department of Education.

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