**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE SKILLSUSA FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TOWARD BUILDING A QUALITY AMERICAN WORK FORCE, AND TO THANK THE ORGANIZATION FOR ITS FINE WORK AMONG THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE PALMETTO STATE.

Whereas, with a membership composed of students, teachers, and industrial partners working together to ensure America has a skilled work force, SkillsUSA prepares America’s high‑performance workers in public‑career and technical programs. It provides quality educational experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship, and character development and builds and reinforces self‑confidence, positive work attitudes, and communication skills; and

Whereas, it also emphasizes total quality at work, which includes high ethical standards, superior work skills, lifelong education, and pride in the dignity of work, and promotes understanding of the free‑enterprise system and involvement in community service; and

Whereas, this national nonprofit organization services the more than 300,000 students and advisors that join its ranks annually, as well as alumni and lifetime members. Over its history, it has served more than 10.5 million members; and

Whereas, in 2012 alone, more than 16,600 teachers and school administrators served as professional SkillsUSA members and advisors. In addition, more than 1,100 business, industry, and labor sponsors actively support SkillsUSA at the national level through financial aid, in‑kind contributions, and involvement of their people in SkillsUSA activities. Many more work directly with state associations and local chapters; and

Whereas, South Carolina SkillsUSA has more than 70 chapters throughout the state representing over 1,475 high school members and 311 professional members, including teachers, business and industry representatives, and postsecondary students; and

Whereas, SkillsUSA programs include local, state, and national competitions in which students demonstrate occupational and leadership skills; and

Whereas, these programs also help to establish industry standards for job‑skill training in the lab and classroom and promote community service. Recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, SkillsUSA is cited as a “successful model of an employer‑driven youth‑development training program” by the U.S. Department of Labor, and its impact on the preparation of South Carolina’s young people for successful work careers has been considerable. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize SkillsUSA for its contribution toward building a quality American work force, and thank the organization for its fine work among the young people of the Palmetto State.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to SkillsUSA.

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