**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO PROCLAIM MAY 16, 2013, AS SENIOR HUNGER AWARENESS DAY IN SOUTH CAROLINA, TO ENCOURAGE ALL SOUTH CAROLINIANS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE IMPACT OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION ON THE HEALTH OF OUR CITIZENS AND ON THE PROGRESS OF OUR STATE, AND TO WORK TOGETHER FOR A HUNGER‑FREE SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the United States produces more than enough food to assure every American citizen a nutritious and nourishing diet every day; and

Whereas, air, water, and food are the three essential elements for life and proper development, and food is the only one of the three not readily available to everyone; and

Whereas, access to food can be impacted by, among other things, public policies and personal tragedies, which thereby help to impose access barriers and create food insecurity, affecting over 807,960 people in South Carolina, many of them seniors; and

Whereas, poor or inadequate nutrition can lead to various health concerns in older adults, including a weak immune system, which increases the risk of infections; poor wound healing; and muscle weakness, which can lead to falls resulting in fractures; and dental diseases; and

Whereas, seventeen percent of South Carolina’s senior population faces hunger, currently ranking the State as the eighth worst in the United States in senior‑adult hunger; and

Whereas, South Carolina ranks second on the Meals on Wheels’ Association’s list of “Top Senior Hunger States”; and

Whereas, nonprofit agencies, churches, synagogues, mosques, soup kitchens, shelters, and the South Carolina Association of Food Banks strive daily to carry out their commitment to reduce food waste and to feed all people by gathering, storing, and distributing nutritious food to those in need of nourishment; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly recognize that it is vitally important to address the tragedy of senior hunger and malnutrition in this State and to bring awareness of this issue to the forefront. 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, proclaim May 16, 2013, as Senior Hunger Awareness Day in South Carolina, encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about the impact of hunger and malnutrition on the health of our citizens and on the progress of our State, and to work together for a hunger‑free South Carolina.

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