**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF THE CHILDREN’S DEFENSE FUND, ON HER LIFETIME OF SERVING AS AN AMBASSADOR FOR DISADVANTAGED AMERICANS AND TO CONGRATULATE HER ON BEING INDUCTED INTO THE SOUTH CAROLINA HALL OF FAME.

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is pleased to learn that Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children’s Defense Fund, was inducted into the South Carolina Hall of Fame on February 24, 2014, for her outstanding contributions to the state’s heritage and progress; and

Whereas, born in Bennettsville to the late Reverend Arthur Jerome and Maggie Leola Bowen Wright, Mrs. Edelman has been an advocate for disadvantaged Americans for her entire professional life. After completing her education at Spelman College and Yale Law School, she became the first black woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar and directed the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund office in Jackson, Mississippi. In l968, she moved to Washington, D.C., as counsel for the Poor People’s Campaign that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., began organizing before his death; and

Whereas, under her leadership for the last forty years, the Children’s Defense Fund has become the nation’s strongest voice for children and families. The Children’s Defense Fund’s Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities; and

Whereas, Mrs. Edelman has received over a hundred honorary degrees and many awards, including the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Prize, the Heinz Award, a MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Robert F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award for her many writings, which include *Families in Peril: An Agenda for Social Change*; *The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours*; *Lanterns: A Memoir of Mentors*; and *I*’*m Your Child, God: Prayers for Our Children*; and

Whereas, a board member of the Robin Hood Foundation and the Association to Benefit Children, she is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Philosophical Society, and other organizations; and

Whereas, further recognitions await Mrs. Edelman in the near future: On April 26, 2014, she will be inducted into the Penn Center 1862 Circle, and on April 27, 2014, she will honored guest speaker at Tabernacle Baptist Church; and

Whereas, at home, she is the wife of Peter B. Edelman, a professor at Georgetown University Law Center. The proud parents of three sons, the Edelmans enjoy four delightful grandchildren; and

Whereas, grateful for the legacy of consistent commitment and excellence Marian Wright Edelman has bestowed on this great State and our country, the General Assembly takes great pleasure in honoring her on her recent induction into the South Carolina Hall of Fame. 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, honor Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children’s Defense Fund, on her lifetime of serving as an ambassador for disadvantaged Americans and congratulate her on being inducted into the South Carolina Hall of Fame.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Marian Wright Edelman.

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