**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND SOUTH CAROLINA SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS ACROSS THE PALMETTO STATE FOR THEIR POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES.

Whereas, for more than thirty years, entrepreneurs have turned to South Carolina Small Business Development Centers (SC SBDC) for help with expanding an existing business or starting a new enterprise. Through free consulting, low‑cost seminars, and links to resources, SC SBDC helps jump start startups and assists existing businesses to thrive. SC SBDC consultants work with companies in all stages of development, from a person with an innovative product but no idea how to move forward, to the owner of a company looking to capture new markets; and

Whereas, a statewide organization, SC SBDC has seventeen area centers in communities across South Carolina that serve both urban and rural business needs. SC SBDC helps more than six thousand clients each year. Since 2006, SC SBDC has assisted the startup of more than five hundred new ventures and helped generate more than $383 million in capital formation. In the past five years, SC SBDC consultants have assisted in bringing more than $1 billion in government contracts to small companies in South Carolina; and

Whereas, Small Business Development Centers play a crucial role in supporting the nation’s economy. According to the Small Business Administration, more than half of all private‑sector employees work for small businesses. In an economy struggling to produce jobs, many downsized workers have developed a high entrepreneurial spirit. Helping those who seek their fortune in the private‑enterprise system not only paves the way for their success but also often supports job growth; and

Whereas, in order to support SC SBDC’s efforts in the Palmetto State, the organization has obtained $26 billion in U.S. federal contracts for small businesses in South Carolina. Won through the untiring efforts of SC SBDC’s Linda Blanton, the monies to be generated by the new contracts exceed the highest previously generated monies by $25 billion; and

Whereas, the Senate, grateful for the SC SBDC’s outstandingly successful labors, takes great pleasure in honoring South Carolina Small Business Development Centers for helping this great state’s entrepreneurs grow successful businesses. In so doing, these centers have greatly assisted South Carolina’s economic development and proven themselves praiseworthy public benefactors. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and commend South Carolina Small Business Development Centers across the Palmetto State for their positive economic impact on small businesses.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to South Carolina Small Business Development Centers.

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