**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR PATTI LABELLE, AMERICAN SINGER, AUTHOR, ACTRESS, AND CHAMPION AGAINST DIABETES, AND TO EXTEND TO HER A CORDIAL WELCOME FROM THE PALMETTO STATE UPON THE OCCASION OF HER ADDRESS TO THE TENTH ANNUAL GREENVILLE HEALTH SYSTEM MINORITY HEALTH SUMMIT ON APRIL 9, 2016.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to learn that Patti LaBelle, American singer, author, actress, and champion against diabetes, will travel to the Palmetto State on Saturday, April 9, 2016, as keynote speaker for the Tenth Annual Greenville Health System (GHS) Minority Health Summit; and

Whereas, at the Summit to be held at the TD Convention Center in Greenville, Ms. LaBelle will deliver remarks focused on diabetes, which disproportionately affects minorities. The event also will feature fun and fitness demonstrations, physician‑led panel discussions, survivor stories, and nutrition and meal planning; and

Whereas, widely regarded as the queen of rock and soul music and often called the Godmother of Soul, Ms. LaBelle has been widely acclaimed for many songs, including such hits as “When You Talk About Love,” “Lady Marmalade,” and “New Attitude”; and

Whereas, she began her career as part of the Ordettes in 1959, which became The Bluebelles in 1961. The group later changed its name to the edgier LaBelle; and

Whereas, following the success of the 1974 album *Nightbirds*, LaBelle began a whirlwind tour, becoming the first group to play at the Metropolitan Opera House, and the first black vocal group to appear on the cover of *Rolling Stone* magazine; and

Whereas, after taking the name of the group, Ms. LaBelle released solos that included a ballad in 1982 entitled “The Best Is Yet to Come,” which reached No. 14 on the R&B chart and resulted in her first solo Grammy Award nomination. That same year she had a No. 1 hit with “On My Own”; and

Whereas, her success as a solo artist began in earnest when she released her hit album *I*’*m in Love Again* in 1983; and

Whereas, in 1991, she released *Burnin*’, which reached gold status and garnered the singer her first Grammy Award. She continued to release popular albums throughout the 1990s and was honored for her work in 1993 with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and in 2009 with induction in the Apollo Legends Hall of Fame; and

Whereas, Ms. LaBelle also has written several books, including her autobiography *Don*’*t Block the Blessings* in 1997, the diabetic cookbook *LaBelle Cuisine: Recipes to Sing About* in 1998, and *Recipes for the Good Life* in 2008. She has launched her own line of sauces called Patti LaBelle Good Life; and

Whereas, her numerous stage and screen work includes a 1982 appearance on Broadway’s *Your Arm*’*s Too Short to Box with God*, roles in the 1984 films *A Soldier*’*s Story* and *Beverly Hills Cop*, a role in the television series *A Different World* (1990), and an appearance on the popular television series *American Horror Story* (2014). She also has appeared as a contestant on *Dancing with the Stars*; and

Whereas, in admiration of her multifaceted career, the South Carolina Senate extends Patti LaBelle a warm welcome to South Carolina and wishes her an enjoyable visit to our State as she speaks at the Tenth Annual GHS Minority Health Summit. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, honor Patti LaBelle, American singer, author, actress, and champion against diabetes, and extend to her a cordial welcome from the Palmetto State upon the occasion of her address to the Tenth Annual Greenville Health System Minority Health Summit on April 9, 2016.

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

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