**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE INESTIMABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SMALL BUSINESSES TO THE FUNCTIONS OF A FREE MARKET AND TO THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY, AND TO DECLARE MAY 4 THROUGH MAY 8, 2015, AS “NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK.”

Whereas, small businesses provide a crucial contribution to the nation’s economic prosperity and well-being, representing the ideals of hard work, initiative, and resourcefulness that make America great; and

Whereas, by creating nearly two out of every three new jobs in the United States and employing half of the nation’s private sector workforce, small businesses truly provide the backbone of our national economy; and

Whereas, in tireless support of small businesses, President Barack Obama has fought to promote tax codes that reflect American values and encourage growth to ensure that those who risk the hazards and labor to build a thriving business from a mere concept are treated fairly; and

Whereas, in order to assist entrepreneurs as they establish and build their businesses, President Obama has signed into law eighteen different tax reductions to help small businesses meet demands of the twenty‑first‑century economy; and

Whereas, since the President’s QuickPay initiative commenced, over one billion dollars in cost savings for small businesses have been realized, and a new partnership with the private sector, SupplierPay, has been launched to strengthen small businesses by increasing their working capital; and

Whereas, another of President Obama’s initiatives, the Affordable Care Act, was established to expand insurance coverage, reduce health care costs, and improve the quality of care in an effort to strengthen small businesses and the economy; and

Whereas, recognizing the importance of supporting emerging entrepreneurial communities, the President also has supported injecting capital into ventures operated by women, veterans, and underserved populations; and

Whereas, small businesses embody what is noteworthy about America, namely, the notion that, with determination and responsibility, citizens can build a better life for themselves and their loved ones; and

Whereas, for more than two centuries, small businesses in the United States have been pillars of communities nationwide and engines of a strong economy, and the innovation of American entrepreneurs has sparked ideas that have changed the course of history for the better; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives salute the dedicated entrepreneurs in the Palmetto State during National Small Business Week, and celebrate the industry and productivity of the owners of small businesses which invigorate the South Carolina economy. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor the inestimable contributions of small businesses to the functions of a free market and to the competitiveness of the American economy, and declare May 4 through May 8, 2015, as “National Small Business Week.”

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