**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE MISS SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION, INC., ON CROWNING THE EIGHTIETH MISS SOUTH CAROLINA IN 2016 AND TO THANK THE ORGANIZATION FOR ITS MANY YEARS OF OFFERING THE YOUNG WOMEN OF SOUTH CAROLINA OPPORTUNITIES IN LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, AND SERVICE.

Whereas, the House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the Miss South Carolina Scholarship Organization, Inc., will crown the eightieth Miss South Carolina in 2016; and

Whereas, in 1937, the organization crowned the first Miss South Carolina, thus beginning a long tradition of offering the young women of South Carolina opportunities to develop their leadership abilities, continue their education, and participate in service to the citizens of this great State; and

Whereas, the Miss America Pageant, the parent organization of the Miss South Carolina Pageant, was organized in 1921 by a group of Atlantic City, New Jersey, merchants and civic leaders. Today, the pageant and its 1,500 local and state pageants comprise the largest single source of scholarship funds available to young women in the world. This unique organization provides scholarships at every level of competition; and

Whereas, South Carolina joined the Miss America Pageant family in 1937, when a state franchise was awarded. In the early years, Myrtle Beach served as the setting for the Miss South Carolina competition, held at the Pavilion near the Atlantic Ocean. In 1958, the pageant moved to Greenville, and in the early 1990s the pageant relocated to Spartanburg. In 2011, the pageant was moved to Columbia, the state capital, where the 75th‑anniversary pageant was held, and where the pageant continues to be held; and

Whereas, the Miss South Carolina Scholarship Organization, Inc., is the largest provider of scholarships to young women in the State of South Carolina, and has offered several hundred thousand dollars in cash scholarships and over $10 million in tuition scholarships. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the Miss South Carolina Scholarship Organization, Inc., on crowning the eightieth Miss South Carolina in 2016 and thank the organization for its many years of offering the young women of South Carolina opportunities in leadership, education, and service.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Miss South Carolina Scholarship Organization, Inc.

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