**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO DESIGNATE THE WEEK OF JANUARY 22 THROUGH JANUARY 28, 2017 AS “NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK IN SOUTH CAROLINA” AND TO CONGRATULATE STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND SCHOOL LEADERS FROM K‑12 EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS OF ALL VARIETIES FOR THEIR PERSISTENCE, ACHIEVEMENTS, DEDICATION, AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR COMMUNITIES IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, a diversity of choices in K‑12 education empowers parents to select educational environments that meet the individual needs and strengths of their children; and

Whereas, South Carolina is home to high‑quality K‑12 educational environments of all varieties, including traditional public schools, public charter schools, public magnet schools, private schools, online schools, and home schooling; and

Whereas, highly effective teachers and school leaders in all of these educational environments prepare children to achieve their dreams; and

Whereas, more families than ever before in South Carolina are actively choosing the best education for their children; and

Whereas, greater public awareness of the issue of parental choice in education can inform additional families about the benefits of proactively choosing challenging, motivating, and effective educational environments for their children; and

Whereas, a parent’s ability to choose schools for children is nonpolitical, nonpartisan, and deserving of the utmost respect; and

Whereas, hundreds of families, teachers, and school leaders will celebrate the benefits of educational choice on Wednesday, January 25, 2017, in Columbia at a Statehouse rally during the seventh annual National School Choice Week to be held the week of January 22 through January 28, 2017. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate designate the week of January 22 through January 28, 2017 as “National School Choice Week in South Carolina” and congratulate students, parents, teachers, and school leaders from K‑12 educational environments of all varieties for their persistence, achievements, dedication, and contributions to their communities in South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that the members of the South Carolina Senate encourage all parents, guardians, and caretakers, during National School Choice Week in South Carolina, to learn more about the educational options available to them in this State.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the National School Choice Week nonprofit organization.

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