**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND DR. DANIEL W. BLUE, JR., ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE ROLE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DILLON COUNTY FIRST STEPS ON JANUARY 30, 2017, AND TO VOICE EARNEST GRATITUDE FOR THE SIXTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE DEDICATED TO HELPING THE CHILDREN OF THE PALMETTO STATE.

Whereas, since September 18, 2000, Dr. Daniel W. Blue, Jr., has committed his time to ensuring that young children in Dillon County receive the help necessary to gain a quality education; and

Whereas, born in Dillon County on April 22, 1939, Dr. Blue graduated from Gordon High School in 1956. In pursuit of further education for his life’s work, he received his undergraduate degree at Claflin University in Orangeburg in 1960. Later, he attended Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, where he earned his master’s degree in public administration in 1977 and his doctorate in educational leadership in 1981; and

Whereas, Dr. Blue initiated his long, varied career in New Jersey, where he spent many years working in various capacities. Among other employment, he served as chief of staff to the mayor in Newark, executive director of the Housing Authority for the same city, and president and owner of the Dillon Security Company. After years working in multiple regions around the United States, he decided to return to his roots in Dillon, and began his role as executive director for Dillon County First Steps; and

Whereas, Daniel Blue has always believed strongly in personal involvement with his community, and his convictions have led him to serve that community in numerous capacities. These include membership in the Marion County Economic Development Commission, Marion County Healthcare Systems, Mullins Chamber of Commerce, National Black Public Relations Society, and Marion County Human Relations Commission. He is also a lifetime member of the NAACP, and he holds posts as Marion County NAACP Branch president and Dillon County Community Council president; and

Whereas, formerly, he has served in such roles as founder and president of the Human and Civil Rights Association of New Jersey, president of the New Jersey Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, president of the Illinois Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, and president of the United Community Corporation; and

Whereas, Dr. Blue finds strength for his labors in the strong support of his beautiful wife, Susie, and their two delightful children, Daniel III and Susan Danielle; and

Whereas, understanding that Dr. Blue plans to retire at the end of January 2017 from the post he has filled so ably for sixteen years, the House of Representatives wishes to express its gratitude for his exemplary service to the people of South Carolina, most particularly those of Dillon County. The members hope he will find much joy in the increased leisure time he will soon be able to devote to his family, friends, and other interests during a well‑earned retirement. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, commend Dr. Daniel W. Blue, Jr., on his retirement from the role of executive director of Dillon County First Steps on January 30, 2017, and voice earnest gratitude for the sixteen years of service dedicated to helping the children of the Palmetto State.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Daniel W. Blue, Jr., of Dillon County.

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