**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2017, AS “RESPITE AWARENESS DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL SOUTH CAROLINIANS TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF RESPITE TO FAMILIES CARING FOR A LOVED ONE OF ANY AGE WITH SPECIAL PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL NEEDS.

Whereas, as uncompensated providers of quality care for loved ones of all ages who have extraordinary physical and mental needs, family caregivers are among South Carolina’s most valuable resources; and

Whereas, due to the daily responsibility and intensive, often stressful demands of ongoing care, these caregivers need support and a temporary break from caregiving; and

Whereas, respite, a short, temporary break from taking care of a physically or mentally dependent loved one, strengthens the ability of families to cope in times of crisis and enables them to be more active participants in their communities; and

Whereas, recognizing the common need of all family caregivers for a break from their daily routine, lifespan respite care services provide a cost‑effective alternative to institutionalization and have been shown to reduce illness in caregivers while helping to strengthen marriage and family stability. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, declare Tuesday, February 14, 2017, as “Respite Awareness Day” in South Carolina and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the importance of respite to families caring for a loved one of any age with special physical and/or mental needs.

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