**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE MAY 2017 “AMERICAN JEWISH HERITAGE MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE HISTORY OF JEWISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR GREAT STATE.

Whereas, through the naming of May 2017 as American Jewish Heritage Month (JAHM), the citizens of South Carolina are encouraged to learn more about the over three hundred sixty years of Jewish contributions in South Carolina and the greater American culture; and

Whereas, from our Nation’s earliest days, Jewish Americans have been a critical part of our story. In the face of unspeakable discrimination and adversity, they have fought tirelessly to realize their piece of the American dream and the promise of our founding, holding tight to the belief that better days lie ahead. Their relentless spirit and remarkable achievements have enriched our country, stirred our conscience, and challenged us to extend the miracles of freedom and security; and

Whereas, as we celebrate the rich heritage of the Jewish American community, it is impossible to separate their accomplishments from the struggles of the Jewish people around the world. American Jews have worked to strengthen the promise of religious freedom because their ancestors were tested from the moment they came together and professed their faith. Today, they continue to teach empathy and compassion, inspired by the lessons of their parents and grandparents who knew how it felt to be a stranger, and to stand up for a more perfect Union for all, relentlessly pursuing “tikkun olam”, because they have always understood that we must recognize ourselves in the struggles of our fellow man; and

Whereas, as tragic events show us all too often, Jewish communities continue to confront hostility and bigotry. The Palmetto State shares an obligation to condemn and combat anti‑Semitism and hatred wherever it exists, and we remain committed to standing against the ugly tide of anti‑Semitism in all its forms; and

Whereas, for centuries, Jews have reached for the blessings of freedom and opportunity in the United States. Today, as pillars of their families and leaders in their communities, Jewish Americans represent a link in an unbroken chain of perseverance. During Jewish American Heritage Month, we celebrate the hard‑fought progress won through struggle and sacrifice, and we rededicate ourselves to building a world where diversity is cherished and faith is protected. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, declares May 2017 “American Jewish Heritage Month” in South Carolina and recognize and honor the history of Jewish contributions to our great State.

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