**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR CONGRESSMAN JUAN MANUEL DIAZ DURAN AND COMMEND HIM FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE THROUGH THE FORMATION OF THE GUATEMALA‑ISRAEL INTER PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP.

Whereas, the United States and Guatemala stood shoulder to shoulder in supporting the 1948 rebirth of the Jewish Nation of Israel; and

Whereas, it is fitting for the members of the South Carolina General Assembly to pause in their deliberations to honor those who bravely stand against international pressure and make decisions they believe to be moral and just; and

Whereas, Congressman Juan Manuel Diaz Duran stands among them as the co‑founder and President of the Guatemala‑Israel Inter Parliamentary Friendship Group, the thirty‑seventh Israel Allies caucus formed around the world; and

Whereas, after working with the Israel Allies Foundation, Diaz Duran took a leading role in joining twenty‑three other Congressmen from different political parties who signed a Solidarity and Friendship Declaration on July 11, 2017, reaffirming Guatemala’s support of Israel and recognizing Israel’s right to determine that Jerusalem is its capital; and

Whereas, Congressman Diaz Duran again took a leading role in gathering forty‑nine congressmen together as signatories to Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales in their December 11, 2017, letter calling upon President Morales to relocate Guatemala’s embassy from Tel Aviv to Israel’s indivisible capitol, Jerusalem; and

Whereas, Guatemala’s President Jimmy Morales announced on December 24, 2017, that Guatemala would take the bold step, notwithstanding undeserved international pressure, to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Israel’s indivisible capitol, Jerusalem; and

Whereas, Congressman Diaz Duran was elected to the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala in 2016 after serving as the Dean of the Law and Justice department of the University of San Pablo of Guatemala. He is a prominent lawyer and previously served as legal advisor of the Constitutional Court of Guatemala; and

Whereas, South Carolina expresses its gratitude to its close trading partner, Guatemala, and Congressman Diaz Duran for joining the United States in its affirmation of Israel’s national legitimacy and sovereignty; and

Whereas, the ongoing support of Israel by Congressman Diaz Duran and the Guatemala‑Israel Inter Parliamentary Friendship Group creates a strengthened friendship of cooperation and mutual respect with Guatemala and South Carolina and the United States as a whole. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Congressman Juan Manuel Diaz Duran and commend him for his commitment to supporting Israel and the Jewish people through the formation of the Guatemala‑Israel Inter Parliamentary Friendship Group.

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