**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE APRIL 2017 AS “HOMESCHOOL RECOGNITION MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA, TO RECOGNIZE THE DILIGENT EFFORTS OF HOMESCHOOLING PARENTS AND THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS OF THEIR STUDENTS, AND TO EXPRESS SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR THEIR FOCUS ON THE WELL‑BEING AND OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS OF THEIR CHILDREN.

Whereas, committed to excellence in education and student achievement, the State of South Carolina appropriately recognizes, by law, the right to home education as a legitimate and viable educational alternative; and

Whereas, in addition, the State of South Carolina recognizes the critical importance and fundamental right of parents to be actively involved in the direction of their children’s education and character development; and

Whereas, South Carolina now has more children being educated in homeschools than ever before in the history of our State; and

Whereas, homeschooling can provide families the opportunity for their children to receive a sound academic education, reinforced by the at‑home educational process; and

Whereas, studies confirm that children who are educated at home score exceptionally well on nationally normed achievement tests, exhibit self‑confidence and good citizenship, and are fully prepared to meet the challenges of today’s society; and

Whereas, teaching children at home was the predominant form of education for much of America’s early years; and

Whereas, many notable Americans have been the product of home education, including George and Martha Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Abigail Adams, John Quincy Adams, Thomas Edison, Helen Keller, Douglas MacArthur, Pearl S. Buck, Franklin Roosevelt, Patrick Henry, John Marshall, Abraham Lincoln, Booker T. Washington, and Woodrow Wilson; and

Whereas, parents of students who homeschool have accepted an additional financial responsibility to provide for their children’s education, while at the same time paying taxes that support South Carolina’s public school system; and

Whereas, some parent educators, in the process of preparing their children to become productive citizens, devote countless hours to helping them attain academic excellence, a deep sense of patriotism, and civic responsibility; and

Whereas, it is appropriate that South Carolina’s home‑educating families be recognized for their selfless contributions in fostering the development of well‑educated citizens of this great State. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, declare April 2017 as “Homeschool Recognition Month” in South Carolina, recognize the diligent efforts of homeschooling parents and the academic success of their students, and express sincere appreciation for their focus on the well‑being and overall achievements of their children.

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