**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE DR. SARAH JANE BYARS OF LEXINGTON COUNTY UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT, TO COMMEND HER FOR HER FORTY-FOUR YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE TO THE LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT TWO PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, AND TO WISH HER MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN HER RETIREMENT.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize Dr. Sarah Jane Byars upon the occasion of her retirement on May 31, 2017; and

Whereas, born in Columbia, Dr. Byars was the middle child of five siblings and attended the public schools of Richland School District One. At the University of South Carolina, Dr. Byars earned the first Bachelor of Science degree awarded in health education and a Master’s degree in health education, studying under internationally known exercise physiologists Dr. Steve Blair and Dr. Russ Pate. In 1996, she earned an Education for Ministry degree from the School of Theology at Sewanee, and in 2005, she earned a Doctor of Education degree from Walden University. Her dissertation focused on the correlation between teachers’ lifestyles and their interactions with disadvantaged students; and

Whereas, in 1973, Dr. Byars began her forty-four year career at Brookland-Cayce High School, where she introduced a health education curriculum. Dr. Byars taught health, physical education, physical science, biology, and chemistry; and

Whereas, Dr. Byars established the Health Counselors Program at Brookland-Cayce, which operated from 1978 to 1994 and engaged senior students with strong character as peer counselors for students with severe discipline and attendance issues. The Health Counselors Program was recognized by the National Institutes of Health in 1980 as one of the top ten health programs in the United States; and

Whereas, Dr. Byars was selected as one of sixteen educators to serve the South Carolina Department of Education on a committee charged with the implementation and analysis of the 1988 Comprehensive Health Education Act; and

Whereas, Dr. Byars has worked with multiple other educational programs aimed at helping students labeled “at risk,” and her connections to many of these students have developed into lifelong friendships; and

Whereas, Dr. Byars spent many years coaching cross country and track; and

Whereas, Dr. Byars is happily married to Jay C. Byars. She is the mother of one daughter, Dawn Del Priore, and one son, David M. Byars; grandmother of five; and great-grandmother of two; and

Whereas, Dr. Byars’ greatest pride is her devotion to her Christian faith and her relationship with her savior Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the legacy of commitment and care that Dr. Sarah Jane Byars has bestowed on the State and appreciate her enduring service to the residents of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, honor and recognize Dr. Sarah Jane Byars of Lexington County upon the occasion of her retirement, commend her for her forty-four years of faithful service to the Lexington School District Two public school system, and wish her much happiness and fulfillment in her retirement.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Sarah Jane Byars.

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