**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA DANCE MARATHON UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY AND TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE ORGANIZATION FOR ITS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to learn that University of South Carolina Dance Marathon will celebrate its twentieth anniversary on March 3, 2018; and

Whereas, founded in 1999, the University of South Carolina Dance Marathon is a fundraising effort led by students at the University of South Carolina. It is the largest student-run philanthropic initiative at USC; and

Whereas, throughout the year, students raise funds for Palmetto Health Children’s Hospital, a member of Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. The University of South Carolina Dance Marathon main event each spring is a 14-hour, no-sitting, no-sleeping dance marathon that celebrates the culmination of a year’s worth of efforts to support patients treated at the Children’s Hospital; and

Whereas, to date, University of South Carolina Dance Marathon has raised more than $3.5 million and impacted countless students and families; and

Whereas, a rapidly growing organization, University of South Carolina Dance Marathon moved to a new location in 2005 because of tremendous growth in its number of participants. In 2015, the organization reached its largest fundraising increase of 57% from the year prior, and from 2016 to 2017, its number of donors increased 7% in one year, to 9,031 donors; and

Whereas, nationally commended, University of South Carolina Dance Marathon ranks third among 18 Southeastern Conference schools with Dance Marathon programs and twelfth among 300 Dance Marathon programs nationwide. University of South Carolina Dance Marathon also ranks eighth in the nation for 2017 fundraising growth; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the passion and commitment that the members of the University of South Carolina Dance Marathon have shown in serving the State and the children of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate University of South Carolina Dance Marathon upon the occasion of its twentieth anniversary and recognize and honor the organization for its many years of service to the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to University of South Carolina Dance Marathon.

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