**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND AMIKIDS FOR ITS FIFTY YEARS OF GUIDING TROUBLED YOUTH TO POSITIVE, PRODUCTIVE ALTERNATIVES TO PAST BEHAVIOR AND ENABLING THEM TO BECOME SUCCESSFUL CITIZENS OF THIS GREAT STATE.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to recognize the selfless labor of those who serve this great State’s most precious resource, its children; and

Whereas, AMIkids was founded in 1969 by Robert Rosoff and Judge Frank Orlando in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, with the mission of providing troubled youth with proactive alternatives to institutional incarceration by offering them a second chance, a new direction, and caring, guiding hands within a community‑based setting; and

Whereas, in 1984, AMIkids arrived in South Carolina and began operations in urban and rural settings focused on serving youth involved in juvenile probation. Since its inception, the organization has proven to be a valuable ally in the great task of nurturing the State’s at‑risk youth; and

Whereas, in South Carolina, AMIkids has served and helped transform the lives of more than 20,000 youth. Nationally, the organization has served more than 136,000; and

Whereas, AMIkids maintains a proactive relationship with state agencies, law enforcement, and the South Carolina legislature and credits these entities with the foresight that brought AMIkids to this State. Their vision has resulted in changing the lives of our troubled youth while maintaining the safety and security of South Carolina’s citizens, with some of the lowest recidivism rates in the United States. Such success saves the State millions of dollars in institutional costs; and

Whereas, young people impacted by AMIkids are able to work their way back into a world of opportunity. AMIkids graduates have earned high school and college diplomas, started small businesses, found gainful employment, enlisted in the military, and served as loving and nurturing parents; and

Whereas, holding fast to its mission, AMIkids continues to assist today’s youth in “separating a troubled past from a bright future”; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is honored to recognize this worthy organization for its invaluable contributions and achievements over three decades in this State and for providing love, practical assistance, and hope for the future to so many at‑risk young people. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and commend AMIkids for its fifty years of guiding troubled youth to positive, productive alternatives to past behavior and enabling them to become successful citizens.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to AMIkids.

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