**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR PICKENS COUNTY FIRST STEPS FOR ITS EFFORTS IN PROMOTING SCHOOL READINESS AMONG THE CHILDREN OF PICKENS COUNTY.

Whereas, South Carolina First Steps was created by the legislature in 1999, and since its inception nearly three hundred forty thousand of South Carolina’s youngest children and their families have enjoyed the assistance of the program to prepare for school; and

Whereas, knowing that no child should start the first day of school with tears or fears, Pickens County First Steps formed a local nonprofit organization using state, federal, and private funds to support specialized programs; and

Whereas, these First Steps programs seek to provide measurable improvement in preparing children to be ready for school; and

Whereas, through partnerships with public and private entities, such as churches, schools, neighborhoods, childcare providers, and businesses, Pickens County First Steps provides programs for children to achieve school readiness; and

Whereas, the goal of Pickens County First Steps is to support families as their children’s first and most important teachers in order to ensure children enter school on track and ready to succeed; and

Whereas, the mission of Pickens County First Steps is to facilitate a collaborative community partnership for measurably improving the early childhood development of all children in Pickens County; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciates the resolute efforts of Pickens County First Steps to prepare children in the Palmetto State to be successful students who become productive citizens. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Pickens County First Steps for its efforts in promoting school readiness among the children of Pickens County.

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