**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR CAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL OF KERSHAW COUNTY AND TO CONGRATULATE THE ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS ON THE SCHOOL’S BEING CHOSEN AS A NATIONAL 2019 SCHOOL TO WATCH.

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is pleased to learn that Kershaw County’s Camden Middle School (CMS) was designated as a School to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform and was recognized at the South Carolina Middle School Conference in Myrtle Beach on March 2, 2019. The school will be further recognized this summer in Washington, D.C, at the National Schools to Watch Conference; and

Whereas, Schools to Watch began in 1999 as a program to identify middle‑grade schools across the country that were meeting or exceeding a set of strict criteria for excellence. South Carolina was one of three states to join the National Forum in 2006, which currently includes eighteen states. To date, twenty middle schools in South Carolina and four hundred schools nationally have earned the Schools to Watch award; and

Whereas, to be selected as a School to Watch, schools must be academically excellent, developmentally responsive, socially equitable, and organized with supportive structure; and

Whereas, Camden Middle School’s emphasis on strong academics, sensitivity to young adolescents’ needs and interests, and commitment to providing all students equal access to a high‑quality education resulted in the well‑deserved recognition; and

Whereas, in addition, when bestowing the designation, the National Forum judges said that CMS truly has heart. According to the team, it is evident that the leadership, faculty, and staff deeply care for, and are committed to, the continuous success of students. The team was also impressed by the high level of appreciation students had for their school and their teachers; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly values the pride and recognition that Camden Middle School has brought to its community and State through this prestigious award, and the members look to hear of the continued success of the school’s students and faculty in the days to come. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, honor Camden Middle School of Kershaw County and congratulate the administration, faculty, staff, students, and parents on the school’s being chosen as a national 2019 School to Watch.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Byron Johnson.

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