**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO WELCOME THE MARCH OF DIMES TO THE STATE HOUSE AND DECLARE WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019, AS “SOUTH CAROLINA HEALTHY MOTHER’S DAY.”

Whereas, the March of Dimes leads the fight for the health of all moms and babies through supporting research, leading programs, and providing education and advocacy; and

Whereas, the March of Dimes has developed a collaborative model to study and prevent premature birth through groundbreaking research at six prematurity research centers; and

Whereas, the March of Dimes is committed to mobilizing the nation by amplifying the voices of women and families; and

Whereas, 6,396 (11.2 percent) of babies in South Carolina were born preterm in 2017, a statistic that gave the State a grade of D on the March of Dimes 2018 Premature Birth Report Card; and

Whereas, one in thirty‑three babies in South Carolina is born with a birth defect; and

Whereas, women of color are most at risk of facing birth complications: Black women are three to four times more likely to die from complications related to pregnancy causes, compared to white women; and

Whereas, the maternal death rate in South Carolina is 2.65 per 100,000 live births; and

Whereas, the societal cost of preterm birth and birth complications in South Carolina is $330 million dollars; and

Whereas, a mother experiencing premature labor and birth, birth complications, or infant loss is much more likely to experience mental health issues such as postpartum depression, anxiety, and post‑traumatic stress disorder; and

Whereas, a mother’s mental health is directly connected to her physical health and, subsequently, the health of her baby; and

Whereas, May 1, 2019, is World Maternal Mental Health Awareness Day; and

Whereas, March of Dimes advocates and staff from across the State are visiting the state capitol to raise awareness about the connection of birth trauma, critical babies, and the relation to a mother’s mental health state; and

Whereas, the March of Dimes is leading a statewide and national effort to save babies from preterm birth by funding research, supporting programs that help families with a newborn in intensive care, and by advocating for funding for newborn screening, anti‑tobacco policies, neonatal abstinence syndrome policies, paid‑leave policies, supporting the mental health of mothers, and advocating for health equity. 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, welcome the March of Dimes to the State House and declare Wednesday, May 1, 2019, as “South Carolina Healthy Mother’s Day.”

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