**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR AUSTIN GEER, A SENIOR AT THE SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS, FOR OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM FOR WINNING THE TENTH ANNUAL LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are pleased to learn that Austin Geer garnered top honors at the Tenth Annual Louisiana State University (LSU) Undergraduate Research Conference; and

Whereas, the son of Patina Walton‑Battle and Toriano Geer, he is a native and life‑long resident of Anderson and is currently a senior at the South Carolina Governor’s School for Science and Mathematics (GSSM) in Hartsville, a publicly‑funded, highly selective residential high school for gifted students, offering advanced studies in STEM disciplines; and

Whereas, an honors student, Austin has a 5.1 GPA and is currently enrolled in college‑level electives, such as molecular biology, neuroscience, and advanced calculus BC, and he serves as vice president of the school’s NAACP chapter, is a member of National Beta Club and of the National Society of Black Engineers, and actively participates in service to the Hartsville community; and

Whereas, Austin is also a record‑setting athlete as a three‑time state champion in cross country and in track and field, and he is a classically‑trained pianist and experienced violinist; and

Whereas, the LSU Undergraduate Research Conference provides a dynamic forum for undergraduates to present research, interact with faculty, and develop collaboration with their peers. Austin and his partner, Lamar Richards, were invited to present their research for competition against undergraduates from across the nation, for which they earned first place in the Engineering and Technology division and took home the highest of honors; and

Whereas, they completed remarkable research in the area of biomaterials and mechanical engineering in the summer of 2018 under the guidance of mentors Dr. Ershela Sims and Dr. Anthony Stewart at Southern University Agricultural and Mechanical College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

Whereas, by tensile testing various materials, their research, *Investigating the Mechanical Characteristics and Failure Characteristics of Dental Archwire,* looked for cost‑effective alternatives to orthodontic materials currently used. They created their own polymer to replace high‑priced, traditional braces; and

Whereas, during the experience in Baton Rouge, Austin developed keen research and scientific‑investigation skills, while gaining skills in research presentation, leadership, and public speaking; and

Whereas, he hopes to complete a double major in biological chemistry and public health in college and to earn a medical doctorate and philosophy doctorate in biological chemistry with the desire to become a surgeon. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor Austin Geer, a senior at the South Carolina Governor’s School of Science and Mathematics, for outstanding academic achievement and congratulate him for winning the Tenth Annual Louisiana State University Undergraduate Research Conference.

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

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