**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND CONGRATULATE DR. CHARLES MASON GARY OF BELTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER THIRTY YEARS DEDICATED TO EXPANDING THE MINDS OF THE CHILDREN OF THE PALMETTO STATE AND TO WISH HIM MUCH CONTINUED HAPPINESS IN HIS WELL‑DESERVED RETIREMENT.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate deem it fitting and proper to pause in their deliberations to honor a man who has committed his life to the cultivation of the young minds of South Carolina, Dr. Charles Mason Gary, on the occasion of his retirement from the position of Deputy Superintendent of Greenville County School District; and

Whereas, Dr. Mason Gary graduated from Belton‑Honea Path High School in 1983. Upon graduation, he sought to further his education by attending Lander University in Greenwood, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1989. In 1990, he became a graduate student at Clemson University, earning his Master of Education degree in 1993. From 1995 until 2004, he worked to earn his educational specialist degree and his Doctorate of Philosophy, both from Clemson; and

Whereas, Dr. Gary’s education career commenced as a teacher and coach at his alma mater, Belton‑Honea Path High School. He taught world history and United States government and coached softball and football. Within a year and a half of working in this capacity, he became administrative assistant before accepting a job as assistant principal at Palmetto Middle School in Williamston. His primary responsibilities consisted of school‑wide discipline and parental contact, as well as textbook ordering and issuance, teacher evaluations, and staff interviews; and

Whereas, he remained assistant principal until 1999 when he accepted a position as principal at Palmetto High School in the same town. He supervised forty‑three certified teachers and twenty‑seven support staff and was responsible for nine hundred forty students. Under his administration, the school saw numerous awards, earning the Palmetto Gold Award, Palmetto Silver Award, Schools of Promise Award, and the South Carolina Department of Education “Red Carpet School” award to name a few; and

Whereas, in 2012, Dr. Gary reached a milestone in his career, attaining the position of superintendent for Anderson District Three. This district contained three elementary, one middle, and one high school, serving twenty‑six hundred students and three hundred eighteen employees; and

Whereas, Dr. Gary is currently the deputy superintendent to Greenville County School District. In this role, he leads the academic and operational functions of one hundred one schools and centers that house approximately seventy‑eight thousand students and nine thousand employees; and

Whereas, in addition to Dr. Gary’s exemplary career within the Anderson and Greenville County school districts, he has dedicated himself even further by co‑authoring the second edition of *No Margin for Error: Saving Our Schools from Borderline Teachers* with his friend and mentor, Dr. Don Fuhr. His second book, *Creating and Sustaining a Freshman Academy,* is set for publication soon; and

Whereas, throughout his career, he has received numerous honors, some of which include the South Carolina Association of Educational Office Professionals’ Administrator of the Year and the Anderson Association of Educational Office Professionals’ Administrator of the Year awards in 2011‑2012; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the tireless efforts Dr. Gary has expended toward furthering the education of students in the Greenville and Anderson areas and hope he fully enjoys his retirement. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, honor and congratulate Dr. Charles Mason Gary of Belton, South Carolina, on the occasion of his retirement after thirty years dedicated to expanding the minds of the children of the Palmetto State and wish him much continued happiness in his well‑deserved retirement.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Charles Mason Gary.

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