**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE BRENDA HART UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT, TO COMMEND HER FOR FORTY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AND TO WISH HER MUCH JOY AND FULFILLMENT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize Brenda Hart upon the occasion of her retirement from the South Carolina Senate; and

Whereas, Mrs. Hart was born in Fort Meade, Maryland to Thomas Walter and Ilse Raedler, and

Whereas, Mrs. Hart graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1979, earning a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration; and

Whereas, Mrs. Hart began her public service in 1982 as an Auditor for the Legislative Audit Council where her work included ensuring the accountability in the management of public resources, ensuring efficiency in operations, and providing analyses and reports to the General Assembly to improve state agencies; and

Whereas, starting in 1989, Mrs. Hart served for ten years on the South Carolina State Reorganization Commission. During that time she served on a team tasked with supporting Governor Carroll Campbell’s Commission on Government Restructuring. The Commission’s work led to the passage of the 1993 Restructuring Act, which consolidated seventy-five agencies into seventeen agencies, including the creation of eleven cabinet agencies; and

Whereas, in 1999, Mrs. Hart worked for the Budget and Control Board’s Budget Office as a Health Care Analyst. Later that year, she was invited by Senator John Drummond to work for the Senate Finance Committee, where she was assigned to provide staff support to the Health and Human Services Subcommittee under the leadership of Senator J. Verne Smith of Greer; and

Whereas, Mrs. Hart served for five years as the Deputy Director of Administration for the Department of Mental Health, South Carolina’s state agency working to improve the lives of those with mental illnesses and to establish a lasting impact with their families and communities. She was responsible for general administration, budgeting, finance, human resources, facilities maintenance, and planning; and

Whereas, Mrs. Hart returned to the Budget and Control Board in 2011, serving as Assistant Director for the Office of State Budget; and

Whereas, upon implementation of the Restructuring Act of 2014, Mrs. Hart became the very first Director of the Executive Budget Office; and

Whereas, in 2016, Mrs. Hart was appointed Director of the Office of Executive Policy and Programs; and

Whereas, Mrs. Hart returned to the Senate Finance Committee in 2018 as a senior budget analyst under the leadership of Chairman Hugh Leatherman, staffing the Higher Education Budget Subcommittee, the Transportation and Regulatory Budget Subcommittee, and then the Constitutional Budget Subcommittee under the leadership of Chairman Harvey Peeler; and

Whereas, Mrs. Hart is married to Edward Arthur “Art” Hart, and together, they have three children, Erin, John, and Patrick, as well as their beloved dog, Preston, and

Whereas, Mrs. Hart is the proud “Oma” of five grandchildren, Josephine, Margot, Hart, Walter, and Emma Birdie; and

Whereas, in retirement, Mrs. Hart and her husband plan to camp and travel across the United States, check off their bucket lists, and, most importantly, enjoy time with their children and grandchildren; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate appreciate the exceptional dedication, expertise, and care that Mrs. Hart has shown the people and the State of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Brenda Hart upon the occasion of her retirement as a Senior Budget Analyst, commend her for her forty years of dedicated service to South Carolina, and wish her much joy and fulfillment in the years ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Brenda Hart.

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