**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR JULIE HUSSEY ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS BOARD OF TRUSTEES, TO EXPRESS DEEP APPRECIATION FOR HER TEN YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE CHILDREN OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AND TO OFFER BEST WISHES FOR MUCH SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

Whereas, for a full decade, Julie Hussey committed her time to serving the children of this great State as a member of the South Carolina First Steps Board of Trustees, which she also served as vice chair and acting chair. After ten years of dedicated service, begun in December 2010, she retired from the board in November 2020. During her time of service, she worked tirelessly to carry out the mission of South Carolina First Steps: to equip South Carolina’s early learners and their families with the individualized support and resources they need to be successful in school and in life; and

Whereas, in preparation for a life of service, this native of Atlanta, Georgia, graduated from the University of Georgia with a BBA in 1988. She has considered herself a proud South Carolinian since 1991. She is a small‑business owner, wife, mother, and community volunteer. For the past twenty‑two years, she has led Civic Communications, a certified boutique firm focused exclusively on providing public information and community outreach assistance on publicly funded, primarily transportation‑related projects, including the construction of the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge and the demolition of the old Cooper River bridges. Further, in 2018 she and her husband opened the Workshops at Howard Heights, which offers light industrial co‑working space for woodworkers, craftspeople, and “messy artists”; and

Whereas, while Julie has been an active volunteer since she was twelve, the birth of her sons in 2003 and 2005 enhanced her interest in the future of public education, racial disparities, and community development. Her involvement with First Steps began on the Charleston County First Steps Board, prior to an appointment from former Speaker Pro Tem Glenn McConnell to the South Carolina First Steps Board in late 2010. She served on the board’s Finance Committee, as well as the Program and Grants Committee, and in 2015 was selected to serve as vice chair. In addition, Julie served on the Early Head Start Governance Committee and chaired the South Carolina First Steps Executive Director Search Committee in 2017; and

Whereas, Julie also has served as co‑chair of the Communications Committee for the Sophia Institute’s Social Justice Racial Equity Collaborative, board member for the League of Women Voters of the United States, and member of Grace Episcopal Church. She was in the Riley Institute’s DLI program (Lowcountry Class IV); and

Whereas, Julie finds strength for her labors in the strong support of her husband, Bill Hussey, and their children, William and Walker; and

Whereas, with much admiration, the General Assembly extends grateful thanks to Julie Hussey for the legacy of dedication and service she has given in behalf of the children of South Carolina. All who know her take great pleasure in wishing her much blessing in the days to come as she continues to serve her community and State. Now, therefore,

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

That the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, honor Julie Hussey on the occasion of her retirement from the South Carolina First Steps Board of Trustees, express deep appreciation for her ten years of distinguished service to the children of South Carolina, and offer best wishes for much success and fulfillment in the years ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Julie Hussey.

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