**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. ELLEN BURKHARDT BABB, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL STATE COORDINATOR FOR IMPROVING BREAST FEEDING, UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AFTER MANY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE STATE, AND TO WISH HER CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly has learned that Dr. Ellen Burkhardt Babb of Chapin in Lexington County will begin a well‑deserved retirement after thirty years of service in the medical field, the last of which have been as the highly‑regarded state coordinator for improving breast feeding with the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC); and

Whereas, Dr. Babb earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from The College of William and Mary in Virginia, and she completed a master’s degree in public health and a doctorate in the same with a concentration in epidemiology; and

Whereas, upon completion of college, she served as a Peace Corp volunteer, working in Ghana, Africa, for two years, and she kept the people in Ghana in her heart. Fluent in French and able in German, she enjoys crossing paths with anyone from Ghana living here; and

Whereas, together with her beloved husband of over thirty years, Jon Richard Babb, she has sponsored more than fourteen students from numerous locations across the globe, including Japan, Okinawa, Vietnam, Germany, Thailand, and the Czech Republic; and

Whereas, one of the individuals they sponsored, a Swede, who became a citizen of the United States, joined the United States Army and completed several tours of duty in Iraq. Another student will soon become an American citizen and is completing a medical residency in Alabama. Two students from Vietnam plan to become citizens: one is studying at Midlands Technical College to become a nurse, and the other now resides in Texas training as a software tech; and

Whereas, both Dr. Babb and her husband have served the State, he with the Department of Social Services in Barnwell, Lexington, and Richland counties in foster care and foster home licensing, and investigating child abuse, as well as in counseling the mental health of adult and youthful offenders at Turbeville and Lee Correctional institutions; and

Whereas, Dr. Babb is a faithful and active member at Augusta Street Church in West Columbia, an independent, nondenominational church that assists missionaries around the world; and

Whereas, she plans to spend many happy hours of retirement enjoying her favorite hobbies: riding bikes around the Palmetto State and other Southern states with her husband; vegetable gardening, sharing many of her organic wonders with friends and church members; and possibly teaching in one of the state’s schools; and

Whereas, grateful for her distinguished service to DHEC, the South Carolina General Assembly takes great pleasure in extending best wishes to Ellen Babb as she transitions to a richly deserved retirement and the unhurried pace of the days ahead, and the members wish her many years of enjoyment in her well‑earned retirement. 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, recognize and honor Dr. Ellen Burkhardt Babb, the Department of Health and Environmental Control state coordinator for improving breast feeding, upon the occasion of her retirement after many years of outstanding service, and wish her continued success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Ellen Burkhardt Babb.

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