**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND THE HONORABLE LEOLA C. ROBINSON‑SIMPSON FOR HER NEARLY TEN YEARS OF COMMITTED SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF HOUSE DISTRICT 25 IN GREENVILLE COUNTY AND TO WISH HER MUCH SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, for nearly ten years and with great integrity, the Honorable Leola C. Robinson‑Simpson has represented the citizens of Greenville County’s District 25 in the House of Representatives of this great State; and

Whereas, born in Belton on September 28, 1944, she is the daughter of Clyde and Rosa Lee Coleman Clement. A long‑time leader in the fight for civil rights in the Greenville area, in 1960, she was part of a youth sit‑in at the Kress Variety Store lunch counter in downtown Greenville at the age of fifteen. Despite her arrest that day and the threats she received regarding the potential punishments for further protesting, just after her sixteenth birthday, she continued to join demonstrations and protest against racial injustice; and

Whereas, Representative Robinson‑Simpson earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from York College of the City University of New York in 1975 and went on to receive her master’s in education from Furman University in 1990. She used this education and all of her learned experiences to confidently and effectively perform her duties as the director at Greenville Technical College until her retirement; and

Whereas, her path through life, including her many experiences both with the public at large and with the educational system, left her uniquely qualified when she began her career in public service. Winning the District 25 seat on the Greenville County School Board in 1996, she served the board with great distinction for more than fifteen years, until she stepped down in 2012 to pursue greater service in the South Carolina House of Representatives; and

Whereas, winning that election, Representative Leola C. Robinson‑Simpson became the proud representative of Greenville County’s District 25. She quickly earned a reputation for her ability to achieve important collaborative bipartisanship as she reached across the aisle to craft and advocate for fair legislation in service to the citizens of this great State. In her final session, she has served with great dedication and merit as the first vice chair of the Interstate Cooperation Committee and as a member of the Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee; and

Whereas, outside of her important work representing District 25, Representative Robinson‑Simpson has found other important ways to serve those in her community who most need it. In 2000, she helped found the Center for Educational Equity in Greenville to provide opportunities for at‑risk students and young adults, as well as improve school attendance, grades, and graduation rates, among many other beneficial attributes; and

Whereas, despite the personal challenges she has been forced to overcome, including challenges to her own health and great anguish at the loss of family, Representative Robinson‑Simpson has spent a lifetime dedicated to serving this State and fighting hard for the betterment of its people; and

Whereas, with the understanding that Leola C. Robinson‑Simpson will not seek re‑election, her colleagues in the House of Representatives wish to take the time to thank her for her dedicated service to the people of District 25 and extend emphatic wishes to both her and her family for all the best life has to offer in the coming years. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, commend the Honorable Leola C. Robinson‑Simpson for her nearly ten years of committed service to the citizens of House District 25 in Greenville County and wish her much success and fulfillment in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Honorable Leola C. Robinson‑Simpson.

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