**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DENTAL ACCESS CAROLINA, LLC, OF YORK COUNTY AND TO CONGRATULATE DR. JOHN E. REESE III AND HIS ASSOCIATES FOR TWO DECADES OF SUCCESSFULLY MEETING THE DENTAL NEEDS OF UNDERSERVED CHILDREN IN ROCK HILL AND THROUGHOUT SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are pleased to learn that Dental Access Carolina will celebrate its twentieth anniversary of mobile dental service to underserved school children in South Carolina; and

Whereas, Dental Access Carolina, LLC, was created on March 1, 2001, in Rock Hill by Dr. John E. Reese III, along with his future wife, Beverly, to provide comprehensive, continuing preventative and restorative dental care for Medicaid‑eligible children on site at their schools in fully equipped mobile dental clinics; and

Whereas, dental disease is the number one disease in childhood, and dental pain is the number one reason children visit the school nurse, yet fewer than five percent of children referred to dentists by school officials actually receive care they need by traditional means; and

Whereas, many children who need care the most are at the greatest risk of not receiving timely care, a problem with the result that those children miss many school hours and experience untreated pain and damage to their overall health; and

Whereas, while attending a meeting of the South Carolina Dental Association on January 21, 2001, Dr. Reese heard discussion of the unattended needs of school children. He left the meeting depending on God to use his dental expertise to help meet those needs; and

Whereas, by March 30, 2001, Dental Access Carolina began an experimental outreach of seeing patients at Rock Hill’s Sylvia Circle Elementary School with the goal of helping to alleviate this serious problem for children and for schools in the community; and

Whereas, by the end of the school year in 2001, Dental Access Carolina had seen thirty patients, proving that access to dental care on site during the school day was a cause worth pursuing; and

Whereas, in September 2001, Dr. Reese sold his traditional dental practice to treat patients full time in a school‑based mobile dental practice which would best suit the needs. He created the design for and began manufacturing his own custom dental clinics; and

Whereas, over two decades, Dental Access Carolina has grown to serve schools in fifteen school districts in York, Chester, Lancaster, Newberry, Fairfield, Richland, Charleston, Greenwood, Florence, Marlboro, Dillon, Darlington, Marion, and Laurens counties, as well as Head Start centers and group homes for mentally challenged youth, serving more than fifteen thousand students annually, all of whom are one hundred percent Medicaid patients; and

Whereas, because of the success of Dental Access Carolina’s service to economically disadvantaged children in the State, the clinics Dr. Reese designed and the model for treating patients on site at schools have been used nationwide and internationally to provide high quality dental care directly to people who need it the most; and

Whereas, in September 2018, Dr. Reese entered into a partnership with a group of caring people with the goal of expanding services and access to dental care in South Carolina and beyond; and

Whereas, the General Assembly deeply appreciates the outstanding dental care that John Reese has provided to the state’s most vulnerable citizens for the last twenty years, and the members wish continued success and prosperity as Dental Access Carolina serves dental needs of school children in South Carolina. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor Dental Access Carolina, LLC, of York County and congratulate Dr. John Reese III, founder of Dental Access Carolina, and his associates for two decades of successfully meeting the needs of underserved children in Rock Hill and throughout South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. John Reese III.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑