**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE MAY 2021 AS “FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA IN HONOR OF FOSTER FAMILIES ACROSS THE STATE AND THEIR MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WELL‑BEING OF OUR CHILDREN.

Whereas, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self‑esteem, and support, the family is the foundation of our communities and our State; and

Whereas, in South Carolina, more than four thousand children and youth in foster care have a safe, secure, and stable placement, many of those with compassionate and nurturing foster families and kinship families; and

Whereas, all young people in foster care need a meaningful connection to a caring adult who will become a lasting, supportive presence in their lives; and

Whereas, additional families are needed to open their homes and hearts to children whose families are in crisis and to play a vital role both in helping children and families heal and reconnect and in launching young people into successful adulthood; and

Whereas, currently, the greatest need for foster homes in South Carolina are ones to serve older youth and teenagers and ones willing to take sibling groups; and

Whereas, the annual observance of Foster Care Awareness Month calls attention to the value of foster care as a temporary service that provides children and youth with a safe, stable, and nurturing foster family until permanence can be achieved. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize May 2021 as “Foster Care Awareness Month” in South Carolina in honor of foster families across the State and their many contributions to the well‑being of our children.

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