**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2021 AS “CHILD-CARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA IN HONOR OF THE IMPORTANT WORK OF CHILD-CARE PROVIDERS AND PROGRAMS IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

Whereas, the Department of Social Services, which serves as the state regulatory agency for child-care providers in South Carolina; the agency’s Division of Early Care and Education; the ABC Quality Program; and other organizations statewide have joined together to recognize child-care providers on Friday, May 7, 2021; and

Whereas, across the State, many children under the age of twelve spend a significant amount of time in a child-care arrangement, which provides the opportunity for parents to work or attend school. A vital component of our state economy, child care is an essential service that provides quality learning environments to help meet all of children’s needs and improve their overall wellbeing; and

Whereas, the COVID‑19 pandemic has created financial hardships for child-care programs and the families of South Carolina that depend on them, and the child-care industry has continued to meet the needs of families, while many child-care providers struggle to keep their doors open; and

Whereas, South Carolina recognizes the struggles of child-care programs and has provided relief to child-care programs through the COVID‑19 emergency operational grants, COVID‑19 support grants, and sanitation cleaning grants to help sustain the viability of child care; and

Whereas, South Carolina’s future depends on the quality of the early childhood experiences provided to young children today. High‑quality early child-care services represent a worthy commitment to our children’s future. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize Friday, May 7, 2021 as “Child-Care Provider Appreciation Day” in South Carolina in honor of the important work of child-care providers and programs in our communities.

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