**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO DESIGNATE THE WEEK OF MAY 16‑22, 2021, AS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO ENCOURAGE THE COMMUNITY TO OBSERVE THIS WEEK WITH APPROPRIATE PROGRAMS, CEREMONIES, AND ACTIVITIES.

Whereas, emergency medical services is a vital public service. The team members are prepared to provide lifesaving care to those in need twenty‑four hours a day, seven days a week; and

Whereas, access to quality medical care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate for those who experience sudden illness or injury. Americans greatly benefit from the knowledge and skills of these highly trained individuals who serve the public with diligence and selflessness; and

Whereas, injury prevention and the appropriate use of the emergency medical services system helps to reduce overall national health care costs; and

Whereas, emergency medical services teams consist of emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency medical technicians, emergency medical dispatchers, paramedics, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, and other trained members of the public, many of whom are volunteers; and

Whereas, the members of the emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousand of hours of specialized training and continuing education which continually enhance their lifesaving skills; and

Whereas, the 2021 theme “This is EMS: Caring for Our Communities,” calls attention to the importance of having highly effective and well trained emergency medical services personnel who are prepared to respond at any time to any type of emergency; and

Whereas, particularly during the COVID‑19 pandemic, emergency medical services has played a vital role in providing care in the fight against this viral outbreak, while also providing a tremendous and selfless service to the public; and

Whereas, May 16‑22, 2021, designated as Emergency Medical Services Week, is a week to recognize the value and accomplishments of emergency medical service providers throughout South Carolina and the United States. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, designate the week of May 16‑22, 2021, as Emergency Medical Services Week in South Carolina and encourage the community to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑