**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE UPON THE PASSING OF PAMELA JENKINS, TO CELEBRATE HER LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS, AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate were deeply saddened by the untimely passing of Pamela Jenkins on Wednesday, August 4, 2021; and

Whereas, the chair of the South Carolina Autism Society board, Ms. Jenkins was often respected for more than just her position. One of the organization’s greatest advocates and supporters, she was both its outward face to the public and its backbone as it worked to improve lives across the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, a dedicated, passionate, and selfless individual, Ms. Jenkins was the kind of public servant for the State of South Carolina that others can aspire to emulate in the years to come; and

Whereas, her journey towards leadership with the South Carolina Autism Society began when, as a mother of four, her youngest son, Rayshawn, was diagnosed with Autism before the age of three; and

Whereas, to address the needs of her son, Ms. Jenkins began to educate herself about Rayshawn’s diagnosis, how to provide for his unique needs, how to keep him safe, and how to navigate the many challenges that would arise throughout Rayshawn’s life; and

Whereas, with her son being a recipient of services through the South Carolina Autism Society, Ms. Jenkins found her own ways to give back. In March of 2018, she created Rayshawn’s Team in support of the South Carolina Autism Society’s Annual Strides for Autism walk. Between 2018 and 2021, her enthusiasm and hard work earned over twenty thousand dollars of contributions for Rayshawn’s Team; and

Whereas, in 2019, after seeing the direct impact that the South Carolina Autism Society had made in the life of her son, she chose to join its board and officially devote her time to helping children and families throughout the Autism community. Within months, she organized a fundraising banquet and showed such energetic initiative that she was voted to be the chair of the board; and

Whereas, as the head of the South Carolina Autism Society, Pamela Jenkins’ contributions have impacted the lives of hundreds of families throughout the State, whether directly or indirectly. Genuine and unceasing in her many efforts, her unparalleled leadership in this State cannot be overstated, and her passing is a tremendous loss for both the organization and this State as a whole; and

Whereas, Pamela was profoundly loved and cherished by her family, her community, and the many individuals whose lives were affected by her kindness, generosity, and strength of conviction. She will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege and pleasure of knowing her. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, express the profound sorrow upon the passing of Pamela Jenkins, celebrate her life and achievements, and extend the deepest sympathy to her family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Pamela Jenkins.

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