**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR JOHN COOLEY, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, FOR HIS TWENTY‑SEVEN YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE, TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, having served his State with excellence since 1986, John Cooley, deputy superintendent and chief financial officer for the South Carolina Department of Education, will soon be leaving the post he has filled with such distinction to enjoy retirement with his wife, Barbara, and their family; and

Whereas, in addition to his work for the Department of Education, this man of unyielding patriotism served his country with dedication and honor in the United States Army and United States Army Reserve for thirty years, retiring with the rank of colonel; and

Whereas, during his tenure with the South Carolina Department of Education, which has spanned five state superintendents of education, John Cooley tirelessly has directed the department’s efforts to account for billions of taxpayer dollars appropriated to school districts and the department; and

Whereas, he is the consummate school‑finance professional, esteemed by local school superintendents and legislators who have sought his counsel, and he repeatedly has proven his keen ability to work with school leaders of various backgrounds, ideologies, and political affiliations; and

Whereas, John Cooley is respected by his colleagues for providing timely and accurate financial information for making informed decisions in the best interests of students. In addition, he has always created an environment of fairness, high expectations, and encouragement among his staff members, recognizing the value of each team member and Encouraging independent professional growth; and

Whereas, through his fine work with the department, he has positively impacted on a yearly basis nearly seven hundred thousand young people and fifty thousand educators in the Palmetto State’s public schools; and

Whereas, grateful for John Cooley’s unwavering commitment to public education and his numerous contributions to the state’s K‑12 public schools, the Senate takes great pleasure in recognizing his twenty‑seven years of service with the South Carolina Department of Education. The members wish him well as he enters retirement and trust he will find much enjoyment in the more leisurely pace of the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, honor John Cooley, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer for the South Carolina Department of Education, for his twenty‑seven years of dedicated service, congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement, and wish him much success and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to John Cooley.

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