**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE SEPTEMBER 2015 AS “GRANDPARENT APPRECIATION MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO RECOGNIZE THE GRANDPARENTS’ RIGHTS ASSOCIATION FOR ITS OUTSTANDING WORK IN ADVOCATING FOR SOUTH CAROLINA’S GRANDPARENTS.

Whereas, the Grandparents’ Rights Association was established in 2009 in Easley, South Carolina, after John Schafer, its founder, learned that a grandparent’s rights were terminated once a child was removed from a home; and

Whereas, under the direction of Mr. Schafer, the association has grown to a membership of over 4,000 and a presence in thirty-seven states; and

Whereas, the Grandparents’ Rights Association’s mission is to support the preservation of the complete family for the well-being of children and the organization accomplishes its goal through advocacy aimed at protecting the rights of children and their extended family; and

Whereas, the Grandparents’ Rights Association has been a vocal supporter for grandparents in the state. They have successfully lobbied for changes to the grandparent visitation law, supported legislation that would give grandparents standing in family court for Department of Social Services cases, and had a presence in many other issues; and

Whereas, the members of the Senate are grateful for the service of dedicated individuals like Mr. Schafer who vigilantly guard the rights of the entire family unit. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly, by this resolution, declare September 2015 as “Grandparent Appreciation Month” in South Carolina and recognize the Grandparents’ Rights Association for its outstanding work in advocating for South Carolina’s grandparents.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. John Schafer, Director, South Carolina Grandparents’ Rights Association.

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