**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE THE FELICIAN SISTERS OF NORTH AMERICA FOR THEIR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF MINISTRY IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO COMMEND THEIR SELFLESS DEDICATION IN PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE MINISTRY, EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, AND LOVING CARE TO THE PEOPLE OF WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY AND BEYOND.

Whereas, Sister M. Susanne Dziedzic and Sister M. Johnna Ciezobka established the St. Ann’s Outreach Center in September of 1992. This center, now the Felician Center, provides an afterschool program for young children, a food pantry, a clothing closet, eye care, dental care, and prescription support; and

Whereas, the Felician Sisters’ work has been supported by donors and tireless volunteers from across the Palmetto State and beyond. Each Thanksgiving, over five thousand cans of food are collected for the Felician Center by Kingstree Community Youth, Williamsburg County School District, Williamsburg Technical College, and Williamsburg Academy and distributed to the neediest members of the community; and

Whereas, during the historic floods of 2015, the Felician Center received thousands of dollars in donations for flood victims and assisted hundreds of Williamsburg County residents impacted by the floods; and

Whereas, in partnership with the Francis Marion University Department of Nursing and Williamsburg Regional Hospital, the Felician Sisters provide health screenings, flu shots, and follow-up services to hundreds of uninsured or underinsured South Carolinians in the Pee Dee; and

Whereas, in 2012, the Felician Sisters were recognized by the Catholic Extension Society of America with the Lumen Christi Award, which identifies selfless individuals who demonstrate how the power of faith can transform lives and communities. This award specifically recognized the deep ecumenical dimension to the Sister’s Catholic mission and their persistent commitment to racial reconciliation; and

Whereas, in their twenty-five years of ministry in Williamsburg County, the Felician Sisters have demonstrated how the power of faith, self-sacrifice, and service to the least of those among us can break down historical racial and religious barriers and bring light and hope to the neediest South Carolinians. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate recognize the Felician Sisters of North America for their twenty-five years of ministry in South Carolina and commend their selfless dedication in providing compassionate ministry, educational services, and loving care to the people of Williamsburg County and beyond.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Felician Sisters of North America.

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