**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE BECKY LARGE OF HORRY COUNTY, FOUNDER OF THE CHAMPION AUTISM NETWORK, INC., FOR BEING NAMED THE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR FOR HER SIGNIFICANT WORK TO IMPROVE AUTISM AWARENESS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Becky Large of Surfside Beach was honored as Citizen of the Year by the Surfside Area Rotary Club; and

Whereas, a business professional and mother of a son on the autism spectrum, Mrs. Large founded the Champion Autism Network, Inc., (CAN) in 2012, a nonprofit autism awareness organization based in Surfside Beach, in an effort to build a better environment for autistic people in her community; and

Whereas, the goal of CAN is to raise autism awareness, reduce criticism and judgment, and help families with children on the broad spectrum of autism to develop a network of like‑minded people and support, locally and beyond; and

Whereas, the mission of CAN is to reduce challenges and barriers in order to allow families with an autistic child to enjoy family outings or experiences common to other families by reducing sensory input and creating inviting environments for children with autism and their parents; and

Whereas, besides her endeavors to promote autism awareness in the Grand Strand, Mrs. Large has also helped to make Myrtle Beach a more autism-friendly destination by partnering with numerous individuals to create an autism-friendly room at Myrtle Beach International; and

Whereas, due to her extensive and successful efforts, Surfside Beach became the nation’s first autism-friendly destination; and

Whereas, Mrs. Large has helped first responders find helpful ways to respond to a home where a disabled person lives. Now in Surfside Beach families can submit paperwork once a year that signifies where a person with disabilities lives; and

Whereas, people on the autism spectrum can respond with fear and confusion to lights, sounds, and sirens or to first responders who come crashing into a home to save occupants from danger, so Mrs. Large talks with first responders to avert such problems; and

Whereas, understanding autism and how people on the autism spectrum react to stressful and threatening circumstances can prevent dangerous situations from becoming much worse; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives values the meaningful work that Becky Large has done to improve autism awareness in her community, and the members expect to hear of the continued beneficial impact of the Champion Autism Network, Inc., on the citizens of the Palmetto State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Becky Large of Horry County, founder of the Champion Autism Network, Inc., for being named the Citizen of the Year for her significant work to improve autism awareness.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Becky Large.

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