**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE JANUARY 31, 2018, AS OMPHALOCELE AWARENESS DAY IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL SOUTH CAROLINIANS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OMPHALOCELE AND MORE ABOUT HOW THEY CAN SUPPORT OMPHALOCELE PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Whereas, omphalocele is a birth defect that causes the abdominal wall not to close properly early in pregnancy, resulting in the protrusion of some or most of the abdominal organs outside of the baby’s body in a thin, nearly transparent sac; and

Whereas, this sac, attached to the body through the navel, may be small, containing only the intestines, or giant, containing the liver and stomach, as well; and

Whereas, a small omphalocele occurs in about one out of every five thousand pregnancies, and a giant omphalocele occurs in about one out of every ten thousand pregnancies; and

Whereas, an omphalocele may be an isolated birth defect or may be associated with other defects or chromosomal abnormalities; and

Whereas, although a child born with an omphalocele and their parents may face numerous challenges, many babies who are born with an omphalocele survive and lead happy, healthy, and productive lives; and

Whereas, Mothers of Omphaloceles (MOOs) is an organization of parents from around the world, created to provide hope, support, and information to families with babies diagnosed with an omphalocele; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly commend the Mothers of Omphaloceles for their selfless efforts to advocate and care for their children. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, declare January 31, 2018, as Omphalocele Awareness Day in South Carolina and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about omphalocele and more about how they can support omphalocele patients and their families.

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