**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND ELIZABETH “BETH” BYARS HRAY OF RICHLAND COUNTY FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND TO EXTEND BEST WISHES TO HER IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, a 2004 summa cum laude graduate of Wofford College, Ms. Hray received her juris doctor degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2007; and

Whereas, the Phi Beta Kappa standout held a number of leadership positions and was the recipient of numerous awards during her Wofford career. She was a Frank F. Roberts Scholar, South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities Sterling Lee Smith Scholar, Wofford Ambassador and feature editor of the Old Gold & Black student newspaper, and member of the Blue Key National Honor Fraternity and Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society. She served as president of Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority and of the Pan‑Hellenic Council. She was a member of the Senior Order of the Gnomes and a recipient of the prestigious “Heart of a Terrier” Leadership Award and the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award; and

Whereas, she began her service to the State as a law clerk to the Legislative Council, quickly distinguishing herself with outstanding skills in research and resolution drafting; and

Whereas, upon her graduation from law school, she became an attorney with the Legislative Council where she ably handled all types of legislation but particularly the complex areas of education, banking, and consumer law; and

Whereas, during her service with the Legislative Council, she also volunteered her services as a guardian ad litem and worked diligently to protect some of the State’s most vulnerable citizens. Beth is also an active member of the Junior League of Columbia; and

Whereas, this bright young attorney with a strong work ethic and determination to go above and beyond what was required of her developed quite a reputation for excellence in her field not just with her fellow attorneys and coworkers but also with House and Senate committee staffers and with the members themselves; and

Whereas, it was not unusual to find Beth at a committee meeting lending her expertise on such matters as charter schools or education financing. Beyond bill drafting, she lent her aid to members of the General Assembly who valued her policy advice as well. Indeed, the members of the “Beth Caucus” undoubtedly will be bereft upon her departure; and

Whereas, together with her dear husband, Dr. Trevor Hray, and their beloved if high maintenance cat, Tobias, Beth will be taking her considerable talents and legal expertise with her as she embarks on yet a new challenge in Jacksonville, Florida; and

Whereas, her work ethic and her many and varied contributions to the General Assembly and the Legislative Council are to be commended and will not soon be forgotten; however, she is not just a dedicated public servant but also a devoted servant of God. A member of St. John’s Episcopal Church, Beth sets a fine example of a young Christian woman to all who are privileged to know her; and

Whereas, this personable young woman, and founder of “Bethfest,” will be greatly missed at the Legislative Council but will be remembered for her dedication to her profession and her most generous heart; and

Whereas, the members and staff of the General Assembly and the Legislative Council express their sincere gratitude to Ms. Hray for her hard work and the professionalism with which she did the work of the General Assembly and wish her great success and enjoyment of sunny Florida skies. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina commend Elizabeth “Beth” Byars Hray of Richland County for her outstanding service to the South Carolina General Assembly and the Legislative Council, and extend best wishes to her in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Elizabeth “Beth” Byars Hray of Richland County.

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