**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE CHARRAE PRIESTER FOR WINNING THE 2014 SENATOR FOR A DAY SPEECH CONTEST SPONSORED BY SENATOR CLEMENTA PINCKNEY OF JASPER COUNTY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to welcome Charrae Priester to the State House as the winner of the 2014 Senator for a Day Speech Contest, sponsored by the Honorable Clementa Pinckney, senator of District 45; and

Whereas, diagnosed with leukemia in 2004, Charrae was home schooled for her early years of primary school and returned to the classroom at the end of her second grade; and

Whereas, in middle school she began attending the Jasper County Boys and Girls Club, through which she was able to participate in community service projects, such as Relay for Life and the Stop the Violence Rally sponsored by the Sheriff’s Department; and

Whereas, in 2011, Charrae competed in the National American Miss Pageant and placed in the top twenty contestants, personifying the pageant’s theme of “I Am a Girl with Dreams”; and

Whereas, she is currently involved in her community as a member of the Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), and the Delta chapter of Growing and Empowering Myself Successfully (GEMS); and

Whereas, a recipient of the Carson Scholars Award, Charrae serves as the president of the Jasper County Keystone Club through the Boys and Girls Club and as the president of her school’s student government association; and

Whereas, in her speech that won the Senator for a Day Contest, she proposed the Reaching Hand Bill which would enable students to reach their hand out to success. The bill would focus on adding a High School 101 class to the state’s high school curriculum, which would cover eighteen core objectives to help students succeed in high school and beyond; and

Whereas, at the end of their freshman year, students would be able to consider sixteen career clusters they might choose to follow, which would help them to determine if they would prefer to pursue studying at a vocational trade school or receiving a college education; and

Whereas, the Reaching Hand Bill would offer students the opportunity to intern, volunteer, or have a part‑time job during high school, and college‑bound students would have a dual enrollment option; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate appreciates the thoughtful attention and energetic consideration that Charrae Priester has given to the issues of bullying, gang violence, suicide, and high school drop‑out rates that plague our state’s teenage population and hinder their success, and the members welcome her to the State House as the 2014 Senator for a Day. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and congratulate Charrae Priester for winning the 2014 Senator for a Day Speech Contest.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Charrae Priester.

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