**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR JENNIFER WISE, A MATH TEACHER AT HAND MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND TO COMMEND HER FOR BEING CHOSEN AS SOUTH CAROLINA’S 2015‑2016 TEACHER OF THE YEAR.

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is pleased to learn that Jennifer Wise was named 2015‑2016 Teacher of the Year for the State of South Carolina at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center on Wednesday, April 20, 2016; and

Whereas, a graduate of the University of South Carolina, Ms. Wise has taught algebra and geometry to seventh‑ and eighth‑grade students at Richland One School District’s Hand Middle School in Columbia for eight years; and

Whereas, chosen from among five finalists, her selection as Teacher of the Year was announced by State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman at the Columbia Metropolitan banquet; and

Whereas, the principal of Hand Middle School, Jody Davidson, has commended Ms. Wise for the intelligence, creativity, and hard work she brings to her classroom, generating a magical environment where her students can learn every day; and

Whereas, in addition to those qualities, she brings to her classroom a love for her students and the community, utilizes engaging instructional practices, and promotes supportive student and parent interactions; and

Whereas, Ms. Wise exhibits her enthusiasm when students awaken to the mathematical anomalies around them in the world outside the classroom. Because her educational philosophy rests on the foundation of lifelong learning and motivation, she desires for her students to see the world as their classroom; and

Whereas, Ms. Wise considers the service involved in teaching as a privilege and seeks to fill students with determination and joy to learn; and

Whereas, she wants to leave her mark on teaching, and each day she strives to build a legacy that tells her students someone cares, someone forgives, and math is a blast; and

Whereas, the honor of being named Teacher of the Year includes the use of a brand new BMW X5 for her to drive across the State this year as she advocates for and mentors other teachers, and she will receive a twenty‑five thousand dollar cash prize; and

Whereas, Ms. Wise plans to advocate for regional conferences that bring veteran teachers, teaching fellows, and cadets together because teaching is a multi-generational profession, and there is so much to learn; and

Whereas, in addition to her recognition as the top teacher in the State, Ms. Wise is a finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching; and

Whereas, she has participated in such leadership roles as serving on the Mathematics Standard Review Board and the School Wellness Council and as a professional learning community facilitator; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly joins with the colleagues, friends, and family of Jennifer Wise to congratulate her selection as the 2015‑2016 Teacher of the Year, and the members wish her success as she advocates for other educators across the Palmetto State. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor Jennifer Wise, a math teacher at Hand Middle School, and commend her for being chosen as South Carolina’s 2015‑2016 Teacher of the Year.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Jennifer Wise.

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