**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE FEBRUARY 2022 AS “AMERICAN HEART MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, cardiovascular disease affects men, women, and children of every age and race in the United States. From 2019 to 2020, deaths from heart disease increased by 4.8%, the largest increase in heart disease deaths since 2012, and stroke deaths increased in the same period by 6%. Cardiovascular disease continues to be the leading cause of death in the United States; and

Whereas, in 2015, cardiovascular disease accounted for $555,000,000,000 in health care expenditures and lost productivity, and by 2035, cardiovascular disease will account for $1,093,900,000,000 in health care expenditures and lost productivity annually; and

Whereas, the global COVID‑19 disease pandemic poses significantly higher risk to individuals with cardiovascular disease and other risk factors; and

Whereas, individuals in the United States have made great progress in reducing the death rate for cardiovascular disease, but this progress has been more modest with respect to the death rate for cardiovascular disease in women and minorities; and

Whereas, cardiovascular diseases are the number one killer of women in the United States, killing more women than all forms of cancer combined; and cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of maternal death in the United States, or, more simply put, heart disease is the primary killer of new moms; and

Whereas, women, especially Black and Hispanic women, are disproportionally impacted by heart disease and stroke. Research shows heart attacks are on the rise in younger women, yet younger generations of women, such as Gen Z and Millennial women, are less likely to be aware of their greatest health threat and less likely to know the warning signs of heart attacks and strokes; and

Whereas, by increasing awareness, speaking out about heart disease, and empowering others to reduce their risk for cardiovascular diseases, we can save thousands of lives each year. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize February 2022 as “American Heart Month” in South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the American Heart Association, Inc.

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