WHEREAS, education is the foundation upon which the economic, intellectual, and social capital of our state is built; and

WHEREAS, school boards directly influence instruction in South Carolina's public schools; and

WHEREAS, the decisions of local school boards affect the present and future lives of children while setting the direction to prepare all students to be competitive in a local, state, national, and global 21st century knowledge economy; and

WHEREAS, local school board members work with parents, businesses, education professionals, and other community members to represent their views and create the ideal educational vision for their public schools and students; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme, School Board Strong, highlights the important role school boards play in representing their constituents by promoting and advocating for quality public education.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim January 2020 as

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the contributions of local school boards to the academic success of public school students across the Palmetto State.