RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 13, 2016, AS SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (SFSP) KICKOFF DAY IN ALABAMA

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), administered in Alabama by the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), Child Nutrition Unit, was established to ensure that children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session; and

WHEREAS, meals that meet federal nutrition guidelines are provided to all children at approved SFSP sites; and

WHEREAS, the SFSP is one of the most underutilized federal programs, with approximately 10 percent of children who are eligible for the program receiving meals; and

WHEREAS, more than 51 million meals were served through the National School Lunch Program during the school year in 2014-15, but only about 2.6 million meals were served through the federal Summer Food Service Program in summer 2015; and

WHEREAS, as a result, the ALSDE Child Nutrition Unit has worked to reach new sponsors through partnerships with national, state, and local organizations, which resulted in a 30 percent increase in participation in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the annual Summer Food Service Program Rally, hosted this year by the ALSDE and Alabaster City Schools, aims to bring awareness to the SFSP and encourage more organizations to help fill the summer “nutrition gap” in underserved areas in Alabama:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby proclaim May 13, 2016, as “Summer Food Service Program Kickoff Day” in the state of Alabama and urges schools, churches, governmental agencies, college and universities, and private non-profit organizations to sponsor SFSP feeding sites to help ensure that all children in Alabama have access to nutritious meals in the summer.

Done this 12th day of May 2016