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TESTIMONY: H.3445 BEFORE THE CONSTITUTIONAL LAWS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

February 23, 2021

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina has studied the issue addressed in this resolution for many years, and we support gubernatorial appointment of the State Superintendent of Education. However, our support is conditioned on a requirement that the appointee have substantial administrative and/or teaching experience of K-12 public education.

H.3445 states that “The General Assembly shall provide by law for the duties, compensation, and qualifications for the office, and the procedures by which the appointment is made.” We urge this committee to amend this resolution to provide assurance that specific qualifications to be developed by the General Assembly must include substantial administrative and/or teaching experience of K-12 public education, without exception for presumed equivalence in other fields. We do not believe that experience in other professions, for example business or law, adequately prepares a candidate to serve as Superintendent of Education. This resolution, and subsequently the amended Constitution, should be explicit on this crucial point.

Thank you for your consideration.

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