

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Burt Danovitz, Ph.D. upon the occasion of his retirement as Executive Director/CEO of The Resource Center for Independent Living after 30 years of distinguished leadership and service on June 20, 2013

WHEREAS, Individuals and organizations devoted to improving the quality of life for others, enabling them to build lives of dignity and self-worth are deserving of the highest praise and recognition; and

WHEREAS, Burt Danovitz has given not only of his time and energies but also of his competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Burt Danovitz, Ph.D. upon the occasion of his retirement as Executive Director and CEO of The Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL) after 30 years of distinguished leadership and service, to be celebrated with a party on Thursday, June 20, 2013, at The Dorothy Smith Center of the RCIL, Utica, New York; and

WHEREAS, After receiving his Bachelor of Social Work degree from Temple University, and his Master of Arts degree in Blind Rehabilitation from Western Michigan University, Burt Danovitz lived and worked in Maine for several years; and

WHEREAS, Burt Danovitz continued his education, and received his Ph.D. in Counseling and Educational Psychology, specializing in Rehabilitation, from Michigan State University in 1980, before moving to Upstate New York; and

WHEREAS, Since 1983, Burt Danovitz has utilized his experience, skills, integrity and passion to lead The Resource Center for Independent Living; he has worked in several different capacities, including overall administrator of the agency, directing a staff of 1400 individuals to provide a full range of independent living and rehabilitation services; and

WHEREAS, With a strong dedication and commitment to disability rights and a world of equality, Burt Danovitz established client assistance programs, and specialized programs for persons with traumatic brain injuries, cognitive disabilities, and the disabled elderly, as well as interpreter services and substance abuse programs; in addition, he oversaw the Public Policy arm of the organization; and

WHEREAS, An active member of the community, Burt Danovitz has served on the Board of Directors for several organizations, some of which include the Central New York Arts Council, Communities That Care, Greater Utica United Way, Planned Parenthood of the Mohawk Valley, Hospice, and Parent Advocates for the Developmentally Disabled; and

WHEREAS, During his professional career, Burt Danovitz has been a frequent presenter, speaker, and workshop facilitator at local, state, and national conferences, on subjects such as, Medicaid, The Americans with Disabilities Act, Moving Toward Integrated Employment, Voting Rights for Persons with Disabilities, and the Need for a National Policy on Assistive Technology; and

WHEREAS, Although he is retiring, Burt Danovitz will remain active in the realm of advocacy and public policy change for human rights; and

WHEREAS, The quality and character of life in this Nation, and in the great State of New York, is reflective of the purposeful lives and good works of those civic-minded community members who dedicate their lives and career to the service of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our atten-

tion, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Burt Danovitz, Ph.D. upon the occasion of his retirement as Executive Director/CEO of The Resource Center for Independent Living after 30 years of distinguished leadership and service on June 20, 2013; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Burt Danovitz, Ph.D.