

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Jill A. Warner upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Thomas P. Morahan Annual Leadership Award in Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Jill A. Warner has given not only of her time and energies but also of her competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special recognition; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Jill A. Warner upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Thomas P. Morahan Annual Leadership Award in Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities; and

WHEREAS, May is Mental Health Awareness Month in the State of New York; therefore, it is fitting during this particular time to recognize the civic endeavors of those remarkable individuals who have been called upon to contribute their time and talents to increasing awareness of mental health conditions and to supporting the mental wellness of all; and

WHEREAS, The Thomas P. Morahan Annual Leadership Award in Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities recognizes the extraordinary spirit, courage and leadership of individuals who have worked tirelessly to promote the health, mental health and wellness of families and individuals; and

WHEREAS, Thomas P. Morahan, throughout his legislative career, consistently and courageously advocated on behalf of those individuals with serious emotional disturbances and persons who are developmentally disabled; and

WHEREAS, Thomas P. Morahan's tenure as Chair of the New York State Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Committee was served with distinction and marked with his sponsorship and co-sponsorship of legislation involving promoting awareness for citizens with special needs; and

WHEREAS, This year's recipient, Jill A. Warner, is the current CEO/Executive Director of Jawonio, the premiere resource for lifespan services in the Hudson Valley for people with disabilities, mental illness and chronic medical needs; and

WHEREAS, Jill A. Warner earned her MSW degree at Purdue University; and

WHEREAS, As the CEO, Jill A. Warner is responsible for overseeing all aspects of this multifaceted, regional organization; she has a demonstrated record of effective executive management and over 30 years of experience in the non-profit disabilities services sector; and

WHEREAS, Before she took on the reins as CEO, Jill A. Warner was the Division Director for Community Living Services; her efforts resulted in an increase in supporting a continuum of residential care for people with disabilities and special needs; and

WHEREAS, She was promoted to Chief Operating Officer in 2005, during which time programs in the areas of medical, mental health, education and in home services enhanced and expanded their services; and

WHEREAS, Jill A. Warner was unanimously endorsed by the Board of Directors to become the 4th CEO to lead Jawonio in March, 2008; prior to joining Jawonio, she was Associate Executive Director at Mount Loretto in Staten Island, New York, overseeing specialty services including campus and community based residential services;

International/US/Special needs adoption services and the Special Adolescent inpatient unit; and

WHEREAS, Jill A. Warner has taken the lead in moving toward becoming an essential resource for the community in the new health care environment; she has become involved in essential discussions on the State and local level, serving on several essential planning committees; and

WHEREAS, Jawonio provides services to more than 5,000 people with disabilities and special needs annually and employs over 1000 people; in 2012, Jawonio received the Pinnacle Award, as non-profit of the year from the Rockland Business Association and Agency of the Year, from NAMI-FAMILYA, for their leadership in Mental Health; and

WHEREAS, Recently, Jill A. Warner has served as a member of the Rockland County Legislature Deficit Reduction Task Force; in addition, she serves on the Board of Directors of Leadership Rockland, the Rockland Business Association and is a member of the New City Rotary, and a volunteer for Meals on Wheels; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her community service, a period of constructive involvement, Jill A. Warner has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Jill A. Warner has displayed throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Jill A. Warner upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Thomas P. Morahan Annual Leadership Award in Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jill A. Warner.