

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION paying tribute to the distinguished life and accomplishments of Catherine Abate, former New York State Senator

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to recognize and pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of former New York State Senator Catherine Abate, an individual of distinguished purpose and enduring commitment, a woman who dedicated her life and career to public service; and

WHEREAS, It is with great sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Catherine Abate on May 17, 2014, noting the significance of her meritorious life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, During her diverse and far-reaching public service career, Catherine Abate served at nearly every level of New York politics, including grassroots organizing, advocacy and City and State government; and

WHEREAS, After receiving her law degree from Boston University Law School in 1972, Catherine Abate began her professional career as an attorney at the Legal Aid Society in New York City, eventually becoming Director of Training in its Criminal Defense Division; and

WHEREAS, In 1986, Governor Mario Cuomo appointed Catherine Abate to the position of Executive Deputy Commissioner of the New York State Division of Human Rights; she was appointed Chair of the New York State Crime Victims Board in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Catherine Abate was appointed by New York City Mayor David Dinkins to serve as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Correction in 1990; in 1992, she was appointed Commissioner of the New York City Department of Probation; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, Catherine Abate was elected to the New York State Senate, representing the 27th District which covered parts of Manhattan; she served with distinction for two terms and was the ranking Democrat on the Crime Victims, Crime and Correction Committee, as well as the Investigations and Government Operations Committee; and

WHEREAS, Although Catherine Abate left the New York State Senate at the end of 1998, she did not leave public service; in 1999 she became President and CEO of Community Healthcare Network, where she made significant and lasting contributions in the area of public health; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure at Community Healthcare Network, Catherine Abate significantly expanded healthcare and social services programs for the underserved and developed innovative strategies for vulnerable segments of the LGBT population, including transgender people and those living with HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, Catherine Abate was a recognized expert on human rights, criminal justice, health care and management/leadership, who freely shared her knowledge and served on numerous government, professional and non-profit boards; and

WHEREAS, Catherine Abate's commitment to public service extended to her friendship and mentoring of numerous government, nonprofit and labor sector leaders who served with her and after her; and

WHEREAS, Catherine Abate, throughout her career and life, served her community and the people of the State of New York with intelligence and caring dedication, contributing significantly to the quality of life of her constituents and the communities of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the memory of Catherine Abate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to her husband Ronald Kliegerman, and son, Kyle Kliegerman.