

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 25th Anniversary of New York Relay

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of New York Relay; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1989, New York Relay service provides service to facilitate communications between thousands of New York's deaf, hard of hearing, speech disabled and hearing disabled citizens; and

WHEREAS, New York Relay was the second statewide relay service established in the country that provides real time translation service using specially trained Communications Assistants between callers using TTY's and hearing callers using standard telephones 24 hours a day, 7 days a week without charge to callers; and

WHEREAS, New York's regulated telecommunications carriers and their customers have funded the service during the past 25 years in order to provide this valuable service in New York and affording deaf, hard of hearing, and speech disabled callers equal access to the telecommunications network; and

WHEREAS, New York Relay has facilitated millions of calls over the past 25 years and has grown to provide increasingly advanced services such as 711 dialing access to relay services, including speech to speech service for speech disabled individuals, Voice Carry-Over service, Hearing Carry-Over service, and Captioned Telephone service; and

WHEREAS, The New York Relay Service Advisory Board, composed of individuals from the deaf, hard of hearing community, the telecommunications industry, the New York Department of Public Service, the Targeted Accessibility Fund and the New York State Telecommunications Association has provided leadership and guidance for New York Relay during the past 25 years; and

WHEREAS, New York Auxiliary Relay service has provided outreach and education and assisted thousands of New Yorkers with training on the use of New York Relay service; and

WHEREAS, New York Relay was originally provided from the New York Relay center in Clifton Park, New York, under contract with AT&T from 1989 until 1997 and has been provided since 1997 in Syracuse, New York, under contract with Sprint Communications; and

WHEREAS, The efforts of hundreds of specially trained Communications Assistants have enriched the lives of millions of New Yorkers through their dedication to providing high quality, discrete assistance to the personal communications of users; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of New York Relay; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the New York Relay Service Center, Syracuse, New York.