

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Higher Educational Opportunity Programs in New York State

WHEREAS, The State of New York is renowned for its centuries-old tradition of excellence and diversity in education and for the place of paramount importance which education holds for the people of the State; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Higher Educational Opportunity Programs in New York State, whose achievements and endeavors further enhance excellence in education, and whose students join us today to protect these programs for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, The Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) is an educational program approved by the New York State Legislature which serves New York State residents who are both academically and economically disadvantaged; and

WHEREAS, HEOP provides a broad range of services to New York State residents who, because of academic and economic circumstances, would otherwise be unable to attend post-secondary non-public educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, In 1966, the Governor and the Legislature approved a bill to provide access to higher education for the educationally and economically disadvantaged students in New York State; and

WHEREAS, The program known as Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge (SEEK) was begun at The City University of New York (CUNY); the College Discovery Program, which was already in existence at community colleges in New York City, was continued, and the State University of New York (SUNY) started the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP); and

WHEREAS, In 1969, legislation established the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) at independent colleges and universities in New York State; in 2006, the Governor and the Legislature approved a name change in honor of the important role former Assemblyman Arthur O. Eve played in increasing access to higher education in New York State; and

WHEREAS, These programs are designed to meet the special needs of students from disadvantaged backgrounds; among the strategies available to meet these needs are testing, pre-freshman summer programs, counseling, tutoring, coursework, and financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, In general, students in opportunity programs are individuals from families with low incomes, with high potential for successful collegiate experience but who have not acquired the verbal, mathematical, and other cognitive skills required for collegiate level work; and

WHEREAS, Generally, their grades fall in the bottom half of their high school graduating classes; they are students who have not earned Regents diplomas, are assigned to high schools which have poor records for developing students, or have been tracked or scheduled into general, commercial, or vocational high school programs; and

WHEREAS, Opportunity programs are available for students living in urban and rural areas; they are available at two and four year levels, at public and independent colleges, and in every academic discipline and career field; and

WHEREAS, Students are selected without regard to age, color, religion, creed, disability, marital status, veteran status, national origin, race, gender, genetic predisposition or carrier status, or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, With just cause and true purpose, this Legislative Body is pleased to recognize the significant assistance of New York State Higher Education Opportunity Programs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Higher Educational Opportunity Programs in New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Higher Educational Opportunity Programs in New York State.