

**BY:** Senator KENNEDY

**CONGRATULATING** the United States Women's National Hockey Team upon the occasion of winning the 2017 International Ice Hockey Federation Women's World Championship

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those exemplary athletes who excel in professional athletics, distinguishing themselves through notable achievements and representing the great Empire State with pride and determination; and

**WHEREAS,** Athletic competition enhances the moral and physical development of the people of this State, preparing them for the future by instilling in them the value of teamwork, encouraging a standard of healthy living, imparting a desire for success and developing a sense of fair play and competition; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to join the community to congratulate the United States Women's National Hockey Team upon the occasion of winning the 2017 International Ice Hockey Federation Women's World Championship on Friday, March 31, 2017 at the USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth, Michigan; and

**WHEREAS,** The United States Women's National Hockey Team defeated Canada, 3-2, in the gold-medal game at the 2017 International Ice Hockey Federation Women's World Championship; and

**WHEREAS,** This auspicious moment would have been declined by the United States Women's National Hockey Team if they were not able to come to a conclusion about fair compensation, which would include any compensation in non-Olympic years, as well as more investment in development of the women's game and better marketing; and

**WHEREAS,** After a long deliberation on the equal compensation of women in the sports field, the American Women's Hockey Team was able to come to an agreement, ready to return to the ice and defend their Gold Medal at the International Ice Hockey Federation Women's World Championship; and

**WHEREAS,** This illustrious victory gives the United States Women's National Hockey Team its fourth consecutive World Championship and seventh in the past eight competitions; Team USA was undefeated at the tournament for its third consecutive year and has won eight world championships; and

**WHEREAS,** Family, friends, and the community at large loyally and enthusiastically supported the USA Women's National Ice Hockey Team throughout their journey as they ended their season with an impressive 5-0-0-0 overall record; and

**WHEREAS,** In a sport such as ice hockey, which demands athletic prowess, speed and agility, Head Coach Robb Stauber and his skilled coaching staff worked hard to hone the skills of this championship team, teaching these outstanding athletes lessons which will prove invaluable both on and off the field; and

**WHEREAS,** The United States Women's National Hockey Team's skill, training, hard work and their willingness to stand for what they believe in, as well as their dedication to change the face of women's hockey in the United States should be justly commended; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding athletes who distinguish themselves through their exceptional performance, attaining unprecedented success and the highest level of personal achievement; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the United States Women's National Hockey Team upon the occasion of winning the 2017 International Ice Hockey Federation Women's World Championship; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the members of the United States Women's National Hockey Team and Head Coach Robb Stauber.