

BY: Senator BONACIC

COMMEMORATING the 50th Anniversary of Head Start in Sullivan County and commending Bertha Green Williams upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service

WHEREAS, It is the custom 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 citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Head Start in Sullivan County and commending Bertha Green Williams upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious event will be celebrated at the renaming of the Woodbourne Head Start to the Bertha Green Williams Early Childhood Development Center on Friday, May 19, 2017, in Woodbourne, New York; and

WHEREAS, The first Head Start Center in Sullivan County was established in 1965 under the Community Action Commission to Help the Economy (C.A.C.H.E.), in conjunction with the County of Sullivan and the Federal Office of Economic Opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Sullivan County Head Start, Inc. consists of two programs: Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS); HS is a comprehensive early childhood development program primarily serving low-income preschool-age children and their families; EHS is a comprehensive early childhood program serving primarily low-income children prenatal to age three, pregnant women and their families; and

WHEREAS, Sullivan County Head Start strives to provide a comprehensive interdisciplinary program which will foster development, support school readiness, encourage self-confidence and discipline, assist in the development of the child's social, emotional and physical well-being and act as a referral service for the children and families we serve; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its 50 years of dedicated service to Sullivan County, Head Start has gone through numerous changes and expansions, however, the one constant of this vital organization is the Executive Director, Bertha G. Williams; and

WHEREAS, Bertha G. Williams has been with Head Start since its beginning, and continues to guide the agency towards its goals with her great wisdom and belief that if you can conceive it, you can achieve it; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense 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 50th Anniversary of Head Start in Sullivan County and commending Bertha Green Williams upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Bertha Green Williams, Administrative Executive Director, Sullivan County Head Start.