

BY: Senator BONACIC

CONGRATULATING Steve McLaughlin upon the occasion of his retirement after 48 years of dedicated service to the field of Human Services

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished citizens of this great Empire State who have devoted themselves to faithfully serving the best interests of their community and the needs of its residents; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Steve McLaughlin upon the occasion of his retirement after 48 years of dedicated service to the field of Human Services; and

WHEREAS, After a career in Human Services which traversed nearly five decades, Steve McLaughlin served the last eight years as Executive Director of Action Towards Independence (ATI); he officially retired from this esteemed position on Sunday, May 13, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of Steve McLaughlin, ATI serves and empowers people with disabilities; additionally, this vital organization promotes the independence, inclusion, participation and personal choice of these individuals; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his illustrious career, Steve McLaughlin has truly advanced the independent living philosophy, advocating for the legal and civil rights of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Steve McLaughlin has been instrumental in the numerous and remarkable changes in how society provides care and services to people with disabilities, including going from institutions to living in the community and providing a free and appropriate education to all children; and

WHEREAS, With a fundamental caring and respect for human life and dignity and a drive toward making things better for other people, Steve McLaughlin has been a staunch supporter of the disabilities rights movement to provide equal access, inclusion and self-direction; and

WHEREAS, Sincerely loved and greatly respected by all those with whom he worked, Steve McLaughlin will be remembered for his honesty, integrity, keen sense of duty and ability to show a unique grasp of human problems in his official acts; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of strength, leadership, intellect, and commitment as that demonstrated by Steve McLaughlin over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

congratulate Steve McLaughlin upon the occasion of his retirement after 48 years of dedicated service to the field of Human Services; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Steve McLaughlin.