

BY: Senator COMRIE

COMMENDING the National Education Association upon the occasion of hosting Read Across America on March 2, 2017

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations which are committed to enhancing the quality of education in the State of New York, and which enable our schools to offer excellent educational programs in the most efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the National Education Association upon the occasion of hosting Read Across America on Thursday, March 2, 2017; and

WHEREAS, In May of 1997, a small reading task force at the National Education Association (NEA) decided to create a day to celebrate reading; the initiative, entitled "Read Across America", is an annual reading motivation and awareness program which calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, 2017, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Seuss is a giant within the literary world; his work has inspired millions of children from every race and creed to read books, which traditionally has not always been the easiest task to complete; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his exceptional career, Dr. Seuss has always taught children that "you'll never be bored when you try something new"; his work in particular bridged that gap and made reading entertaining for youth all over the world; and

WHEREAS, Motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement and creating lifelong successful readers; research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading do better in school; and

WHEREAS, Strong literacy skills are a crucial component to having a productive life, and literacy development begins at birth; studies show that children who are successful readers by third grade are more likely to do well in school, graduate from high school, and have successful careers as adults; an investment in early literacy is an investment in the success and sustainability of a community; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the 3.2 million elementary and secondary teachers, higher education faculty, education support professionals, school administrators, retired educators, and students preparing to become teachers who make up NEA membership, some 50 national organizations and associations give their support; and

WHEREAS, The NEA hopes that through the resources and activities they provide its members, parents, caregivers, children will happily keep reading each and every day of the year; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is very pleased to have this opportunity to salute the National Education Association for its long history of purposeful endeavor which has greatly benefited communities throughout the State of New York, and to wish this worthy organization continued success in future years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the National Education Association upon the occasion of hosting Read Across America on March 2, 2017; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the National Education Association.