

BY: M. of A. Weprin

COMMEMORATING the observance of the New York Indian Consulate's recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the abolition of Indian Indentureship

WHEREAS, A great State is only as great as those individuals such as, Indentured Indian Immigrants, who gives exemplary service to their community, whether through contributing to the economic and social fabric of US society or simply through a lifetime of good citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Indian Indentureship started in 1834 immediately following British Emancipation of Slaves in 1834, as commodity for profit to serve the growing needs for plantation labor and was an intense, painful and harrowing period of Indian migration of millions from several Indian states to far way lands of then British colonies, in particular the Caribbean region; the majority of those laborers came from Indian states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkand, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry; and

WHEREAS, March 20, 2017, marks the centennial of official abolition of Indian Indentureship, an era spanning the years 1834-1917; the painful history and consequences of Indian Indentureship are deeply embedded with tremendous significance, importance, meaningful history and reflections to millions of descendants living in many countries which were the recipients of Indian Indentured laborers seeking better livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, On March 3, 2017, an event took place at the Indian Consulate to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the abolition of Indian Indentureship; this occasion was held in collaboration with many communities of Indian, and non-Indian origin; and

WHEREAS, Indian Indentured laborers worked under invariably inhumane conditions; this lead to many individuals suffering enormous mental, physical and economical damages as a result; and

WHEREAS, The north eastern region of the USA is now home to a significant population of persons of Indian origin Guyana, Trinidad, Suriname and other countries; these decedents of Indian Indentured immigrants have contributed tremendously to the economic and social fabric of US society; and

WHEREAS, Acknowledging that this State is only as great as those individuals whose tireless efforts foster tolerance for people of all races and cultures, and who demonstrate good will to their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Such exceptional celebration are recognized and commemorated to our community, our great State of New York and our whole United States of America; now, therefore, it be

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the observance of the New York Indian Consulate's recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the abolition of Indian Indentureship; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Riva Ganguly Das, New York Indian Consulate.