

BY: Senator BRESLIN

HONORING Blue Carreker upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Jim Perry Progressive Leadership Award by Capital District Citizen Action on September 14, 2021

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Blue Carreker upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Jim Perry Progressive Leadership Award by Capital District Citizen Action to be celebrated at its 29th Annual Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at The Linda, WAMC's Performing Arts Studio, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Jim Perry Progressive Leadership Award honors the legacy of Jim Perry, a gay rights leader and founding member of the Capital District Chapter of Citizen Action of New York; his leadership role both in the Capital District and statewide was exemplary, and his dedication to politics and coalition building paved the way for the passage of Albany's Human Rights Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, It is with the memories of Jim Perry's actions and words that this vital organization recognizes those who have demonstrated a commitment to community activism and leadership; and

WHEREAS, Blue Carreker is being honored with this auspicious award for her role as one of the area's most dedicated, inspiring activists and leaders who has spent countless hours working to make her community a stronger, more just place to live; and

WHEREAS, Blue Carreker grew up in Schenectady, then spent about 20 years away in other parts of the country and the world making music and getting her politics right before returning in 1987 to raise her two sons, Rory and Sean O'Brien, in Scotia, while working as an advocate and communications specialist for non-profit agencies; and

WHEREAS, Many Capital Region residents grew to know Blue Carreker in her years with Planned Parenthood; she worked for both Planned Parenthoods that serve this area for almost 20 years, with responsibilities ranging from Fund Development and Marketing, to Opposition Monitoring and Patient Escort Training, and eventually Vice President of Public Relations and Public Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Blue Carreker protected patients who tried to break through picketers to access health care; and

WHEREAS, She also showed up in solidarity at lobby days and picket lines, and formed and facilitated a range of important coalitions, such as the Capital Region HIV/AIDS Prevention Network; and

WHEREAS, In all her efforts, Blue Carreker has worked to develop an intersectional feminist approach to every campaign, emphasizing the necessity of seeing the work through the eyes and experiences of those most impacted, and emphasizing the long-range goals of economic, racial and gender justice; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, the Capital Region NYCLU presented Blue Carreker with the Carol S. Knox Award for her work spearheading the Women's Equality Agenda Coalition in the Capital Region; and

WHEREAS, Citizen Action of New York hired Blue Carreker in 2014 to be a Statewide Manager for Worker and Gender Justice; in the seven years she was on staff, she continued to build and manage local and statewide coalition campaigns; and

WHEREAS, Most notable was her work as Upstate Campaign Manager for the New York Campaign for Paid Family Leave, when she helped organize and engage six regional coalitions; built a statewide database of supporters; and conducted an extensive survey of small business owners in the Hudson Valley, helping to build the momentum necessary to win this important benefit for all workers in New York State; and

WHEREAS, Her subsequent work to form and lead the Albany County Paid Sick Days Campaign was instrumental in also winning statewide sick day benefits for most New York workers; and

WHEREAS, Blue Carreker retired from Citizen Action in late 2020, but is doing consulting work for the Empire State Campaign for Childcare; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Blue Carreker has displayed throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Blue Carreker upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Jim Perry Progressive Leadership Award by Capital District Citizen Action; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be

transmitted to Blue Carreker.