

**BY:** Senator MANNION

**CONGRATULATING** Susan Constantino upon the occasion of her retirement after 33 years of distinguished service to Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State

**WHEREAS,** Individuals devoted to improving the quality of life for others, enabling them to build lives of dignity and self-worth are deserving of the highest praise and recognition; and

**WHEREAS,** From time to time, society calls upon these individuals to be recognized for the significance of their contributions and efforts to assist others in developing the skills necessary to be successful, productive citizens; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Susan Constantino upon the occasion of her retirement after 33 years of distinguished service to Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State (CP of NYS); and

**WHEREAS,** Susan Constantino earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in Special Education and completed some doctoral course work from the State University College at Buffalo, becoming a certified special education teacher and a school administrator and supervisor; and

**WHEREAS,** After teaching for several years and serving as a director of an education program for children with disabilities in Buffalo, New York, Susan Constantino held the position of Director of Children's Services at Aspire of Western New York from 1984-1989; during this time, this trailblazer created a program, "Special Friends and Computers", to aid people with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS,** After five years, Susan Constantino moved to the Capital District and joined the staff of CP of NYS; after holding the title of Deputy Executive Director, she was named both President and CEO of this vital organization in July of 2004; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout her 33 year-career with CP of NYS, Susan Constantino truly dedicated her heart and soul to the association with 24 affiliates united by a mission of enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities and their families; and

**WHEREAS,** Under her luminous and able leadership, CP of NYS affiliates provided a wide variety of programs, including community-living opportunities, early-intervention, special-education, home service directors and family support services; and

**WHEREAS,** Susan Constantino also spearheaded the opening of five federally qualified health center clinics, called Metro Community Health Centers, throughout New York City and led the effort to introduce telemedicine into residences, so individuals may see a doctor without

leaving their homes; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition, Susan Constantino collaborated with elected officials and government entities to ensure public policy has a positive impact on the lives of people with disabilities, serving on taskforces and councils, as well as statewide coalitions representing the interests of New Yorkers with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS,** Widely regarded as a leader in her field, Susan Constantino has received numerous awards and accolades such as the 2008 Outstanding Service Award from ACCSES for her steadfast and unrelenting commitment to lifting barriers and expanding choices for all persons with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS,** For nearly two decades, Susan Constantino rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to CP of NYS, earning the admiration, esteem and affection of her colleagues; and

**WHEREAS,** In completing her service as President/CEO, Susan Constantino leaves behind more than mere bricks and mortar; she leaves behind a legacy to those individuals supported by CP of NYS as well as their families and the community-at-large; and

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

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Susan Constantino upon the occasion of her retirement, and to wish her continued success in all her future endeavors; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Susan Constantino.