

BY: Senator KENNEDY

CONGRATULATING Rhonda Frederick upon the occasion of her retirement as President and Chief Executive Officer of People Inc.

WHEREAS, Individuals and organizations 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 and organizations 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 Rhonda Frederick upon the occasion of her retirement as President and Chief Executive Officer of People Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Rhonda Frederick began her illustrious career at People Inc. in 1980 in an entry-level direct support position, working in both group homes and day habilitation programs; she steadily moved up the ladder over the years, a rise culminating in her being appointed President and CEO of Western New York's largest human service provider in the fall of 2014; and

WHEREAS, In this capacity, Rhonda Frederick is forging the way for People Inc. as government mandates call for a managed care model and innovative ventures are created to diversify the organization; and

WHEREAS, Prior to becoming CEO, Rhonda Frederick served as People Inc.'s Chief Operating Officer and had oversight of 93 percent of People Inc.'s \$143 million operating budget and its 3,400 employees; she also oversaw all residential, day services, service coordination, in-home supports, senior services and health-related services and had administrative oversight of quality improvement, government relations, program development and legal; and

WHEREAS, As COO, Rhonda Frederick served as the agency's lead relationship builder and liaison with important regulatory and funding agencies such as the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), Developmental Disabilities Regional Office (DDRO), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), NYS Homes and Community Renewal, NYS Department of Health and NYS Office for the Aging; and

WHEREAS, Rhonda Frederick was instrumental in starting People Inc. Senior Living, working with HUD and expanding into numerous locations to create affordable, safe and enjoyable apartments for older adults who meet federally-mandated income guidelines; the agency now has 20 apartment buildings throughout Western New York; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to helping others, Rhonda Frederick currently serves as President of the Developmental Disabilities Alliance of Western New York (DDAWNY), an organization which fosters collaboration among agencies who support people with developmental disabilities and gives them a single voice in Albany; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, she is the Board Chair for Person Centered Services (PCS) and currently serves on the boards of Episcopal Church Home and Affiliates, Inc., Hilbert College, New York State Industries for the Disabled (NYSIDD), Special Olympics NY, Amherst Meals on Wheels and Accountable Health Community Inc.; she also sits on the Board of Regents for Canisius College and the Executive Committee of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership; and

WHEREAS, Active in the community, Rhonda Frederick serves on the steering committee for WNY iCan Bike (formerly Lose the Training Wheels), which provides unique learning opportunities in recreational activities for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The proud recipient of numerous awards and accolades, Rhonda Frederick received the Dr. Evan Calkins Award for Meritorious Service from the Network in Aging of Western New York for her significant contributions to her field; in 2018, she was awarded the Sarah G. Metzger Human Rights Award from Housing Opportunities Made Equal and in 2019, The Human Services Council of New York chose Rhonda for the Notable Women in Human Services Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, In addition, she was recognized as a Distinguished Alumni by Canisius College in 2017, and the Rochester Institute of Technology in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Rhonda Frederick presented at TEDxBuffalo in 2015 about the benefits of employing people with disabilities; since 2009, she has been recognized by Buffalo Business First repeatedly among their Women of Influence, Health Care 50, Power 100 Women, Power 200 Women and the Power 250 in Western New York; she also earned the 2016 Professional of the Year Award from LeadingAge New York; and

WHEREAS, A resident of Amherst, New York, Rhonda Frederick earned a bachelor's degree in social work from Rochester Institute of Technology and a master's degree in public administration from Canisius College; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Rhonda Frederick upon the occasion of her retirement, and to wish her well in all her future endeavors; and be it further

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

transmitted to Rhonda Frederick.