

BY: M. of A. Kim

COMMEMORATING the achievements and efforts of the New York StateWide Senior Action Council upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary, and recognizing its historic contributions to the safety, rights, and wellbeing of older adults in the State of New York

WHEREAS, New York StateWide Senior Action Council, commonly known as "StateWide," was founded in 1972 to achieve through united action the dignity, well-being, and security of all senior citizens of New York State, governed by a diverse board of older New Yorkers with a grassroots network that excels at community education and case-finding; and

WHEREAS, StateWide was founded as part of the War on Poverty and dedicated itself to providing a unified and articulate voice on behalf of older New Yorkers, especially as an advocate for the low-income elderly and low-income persons of all generations, including being named the lead organization in the 2009 rollout of the New York State Elder Economic Security Index in conjunction with Wider Opportunities for Women and the U-MASS; and

WHEREAS, StateWide played a key a role in the passage of the Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) program which provides the core state funding for area agencies on aging programs and the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage program providing relief from pharmaceutical costs for older New Yorkers, and worked tirelessly to ban mandatory retirement and institute Mandatory Medicare Assignment that limits physician overcharges; and

WHEREAS, StateWide values the needs of all generations and was part of a coalition drafting the first iteration of the New York Health Act, worked with children's organizations toward the passage of the Child Health Plus program, and worked for reforms included in the passage of the Managed Care Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, Since 1987, StateWide has operated a state-funded Patients' Rights and Advocacy Hotline to assist all New Yorkers with their rights as health care consumers, including informing Medicare enrollees about their right to appeal a hospital discharge, and in 2013, it successfully pursued a first-in-the-nation law that was the model for a subsequent federal law requiring hospitals to disclose if a patient was assigned to observation status, all while assisting residents and family members with their nursing home rights including establishing a Virtual Resident and Family Council during the Coronavirus pandemic that led to revised state and federal policies which had restricted visitation; and

WHEREAS, StateWide, having heard from clients about their inability to access home care services, formed the NYS Home Care Crisis Campaign to bring attention to the growing workforce shortage in the field of

home health care in New York State, resulting in legislative hearings; and

WHEREAS, Since 2008, StateWide, through a state-funded contract, has assisted Medicare enrollees by providing counseling on coverage options, resolving billing issues, helping to navigate the health care system, and assisting with enrollment in EPIC and the Medicare Savings Program; and

WHEREAS, Since 2018, StateWide has been designated as the sole New York provider for the Senior Medicare Patrol grant from the U.S. Administration on Community Living to help prevent Medicare and Medicaid Fraud among seniors in New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the achievements and efforts of the New York StateWide Senior Action Council upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary, and recognize its historic contributions to the safety, rights, and wellbeing of older adults in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the New York StateWide Senior Action Council.