

BY: Senator STEC

HONORING Behavioral Health Services North, Inc.
upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of
the 2023 Business of the Year Award by the North
Country Chamber of Commerce

WHEREAS, In the course of the evolving development of this Empire State, if the ingredients of shared concern and responsive endeavor combine in the commitment to society, there have emerged among the distinguished citizens of the State of New York certain organizations which warrant special recognition; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to commend those illustrious organizations of the State of New York whose focus and intent have made a substantial impact on the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Behavioral Health Services North, Inc. upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the 2023 Business of the Year Award by the North Country Chamber of Commerce, which was celebrated at its 111th Annual Awards Dinner, "A Winter Wonderland," on Friday, January 27, 2023, at the West Side Ballroom in Plattsburgh, New York; and

WHEREAS, Behavioral Health Services North (BHSN) is receiving this prestigious award for its steadfast and unremitting commitment to its Plattsburgh, New York, and North Country communities; and

WHEREAS, A progressive not-for-profit organization, Behavioral Health Services North is committed to strengthening individuals, families, and community life by delivering a behavioral health care and human service system which provides an integrated continuum of essential, responsive, and cost-effective services; and

WHEREAS, Originally established in 1874, by Margaret Platt, as a home caring for orphans and abandoned children within the community, the home later evolved into the Northern New York Center and grew over its first 125 years in response to the needs of the region; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, this vital organization has evolved into one of the most diverse and distinguished regional suppliers of behavioral services in the State and Nation, with more than 20 sites and programs committed to supporting the residents of North Country; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, its innovative endeavors range from support services and housing to BHSN University, providing team members with educational and growth opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Located along the shores of Lake Champlain, Behavioral Health Services North continues to reflect on its principles which were

founded nearly 150 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Under the able leadership of its President and CEO Mark Lukens, Behavioral Health Services North has experienced astounding growth in its capacity and efforts; over the last five years, its revenue has increased from \$8 million to \$37 million, enabling historic new levels of service and support for the local community; and

WHEREAS, In addition to its President and CEO, the remarkable success of Behavioral Health Services North is in direct correlation to the efforts of its dedicated staff and board, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals and organizations 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 Behavioral Health Services North, Inc. upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the 2023 Business of the Year Award by the North Country Chamber of Commerce; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Behavioral Health Services North, Inc.