

Senate Resolution No. 1152

BY: Senator HARCKHAM

HONORING Rabbi Jennifer Jaech upon the occasion of her retirement after more than 20 years of distinguished service to the Jewish community

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honoring Rabbi Jennifer Jaech upon the occasion of her retirement after more than 20 years of distinguished service to the Jewish community; and

WHEREAS, For the more than 20 years, Rabbi Jennifer Jaech rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to the Jewish community; and

WHEREAS, Upon receiving a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies from Evergreen State College in 1985, Rabbi Jennifer Jaech started her career working in higher education administration and government relations; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, Rabbi Jennifer Jaech received a Master of Arts in Hebrew Literature from Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion; she also earned thirteen academic prizes in disciplines that included history, liturgy, human relations and Hebrew; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Jennifer Jaech was ordained as a rabbi in 2003 and began working at Temple Israel of Northern Westchester, a vibrant Reform Jewish congregation in Croton-on-Hudson, New York that serves hundreds of families from across the surrounding communities; she served as a Rabbinic Intern, Temple Educator and Assistant Rabbi, before becoming Senior Rabbi in 2006, a position she has held for almost two decades; and

WHEREAS, In her capacity as a spiritual leader, Rabbi Jennifer Jaech served with loyalty, honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, Interpreting the complexities of modern life through the perspective of Jewish religious traditions, Rabbi Jennifer Jaech provides the congregation with thoughtful guidance and inspiration, while serving as a mentor to both children and adults; and

WHEREAS, Guided by compassion and dedication to building a stronger community, Rabbi Jennifer Jaech is committed to advancing social justice and interfaith dialogue; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Jennifer Jaech is a former Co-Chair of Reform Jewish Voice of New York State and served on the Union for Reform Judaism's Commission on Social Action and the Central Conference of American Rabbis' Committee on Justice, Peace and Civil Liberties; and

WHEREAS, In her official acts, Rabbi Jennifer Jaech was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems; and

WHEREAS, Eager to share her insights and expertise, Rabbi Jaech co-authored the book "He's All I Have: Nurturing a Young Child through the Loss of a Loved One" and the children's book "An Accidental Angel"; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Jennifer Jaech regularly contributes to a blog addressing contemporary issues through a Jewish lens, and her writings have been published in the "Reform Jewish Quarterly" and "The Forward"; and

WHEREAS, After decades of service to Temple Israel of Northern Westchester, Rabbi Jaech plans to return to the Pacific Northwest with her husband to be closer to family; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure with Temple Israel of Northern Westchester, Rabbi Jennifer Jaech earned the admiration, esteem and affection of her colleagues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Rabbi Jennifer Jaech upon the occasion of her retirement after more than 20 years of distinguished service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rabbi Jennifer Jaech.