

**BY:** Senator ADDABBO

**COMMENDING** New York Families for Autistic Children upon the occasion of celebrating its 20th Anniversary, and paying tribute to this year's honorees on March 1, 2018

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend New York Families for Autistic Children upon the occasion of its 20th Anniversary, and to pay tribute to this year's honorees; and

**WHEREAS,** This auspicious milestone will be celebrated at its Annual Dinner Dance and Awards Celebration in Loving Memory of Ruth Cirello on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** This year's exceptional honorees include Stacey Pheffer Amato, Dr. Tracie Keese, Theresa Shortell, Joseph Joyce, Alison Singer, and Anthony and Kathee Italico; and

**WHEREAS,** New York Families for Autistic Children (NYFAC) was founded in 1998 by current President and CEO Andrew Baumann and his wife Pamela, along with a small group of individuals to give families the help and support they need to deal with this lifelong developmental disability; and

**WHEREAS,** Since its inception, NYFAC has strived to motivate and inspire individuals diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, and their families, to live life to the fullest by providing various support, education, recreational and socialization programs; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2013, NYFAC supported 30,000 families, whether it be in their homes, schools, communities or in one of its facilities; today, this vital organization provides over 20 programs to the many families it serves; and

**WHEREAS,** The success of NYFAC is in direct correlation to the efforts of its staff of 180 employees, 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 institution and the community it serves; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those organizations which enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence

certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend New York Families for Autistic Children upon the occasion of celebrating its 20th Anniversary, and to pay tribute to this year's honorees on March 1, 2018; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Andrew Baumann, President and CEO, New York Families for Autistic Children.