

**BY:** Senator KENNEDY

**HONORING** Raul Vazquez, M.D. upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the President's Award of Distinction by the Buffalo Branch NAACP

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Raul Vazquez, M.D. upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the President's Award of Distinction by the Buffalo Branch NAACP, to be celebrated on Saturday, June 9, 2018; and

**WHEREAS,** Raul Vazquez was born on January 12, 1963, in the South Bronx, where he and his two younger brothers were raised by his mother; as a young boy, he was inspired to become a physician after seeing the distress language barriers caused his family during emergency room visits; and

**WHEREAS,** The first in his family to graduate from high school, Raul Vazquez received a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Fordham University in 1985; he went on to earn his Medical degree from SUNY Buffalo in 1989; and

**WHEREAS,** Furthermore, from 1989 to 1992, this extraordinary man completed his residency program at Deaconess and Buffalo General Hospitals; and

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Raul Vazquez began his illustrious medical career at Buffalo Columbus Hospital and Sheehan Memorial Hospital, specializing in ambulatory services and emergency room medicine; and

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Raul Vazquez opened Urban Family Practice on Buffalo's Lower West Side in 1996; he has since expanded the scope to include an urgent care practice and has been designated a provider-led Medicaid Health Home; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2016, the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) announced that Urban Family Practice of Buffalo had received level three NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH), the highest degree of recognition available; and

**WHEREAS,** Recognizing the need for coordinated, person-centered care for Medicaid recipients with multiple chronic medical conditions, Dr. Raul Vazquez founded and incorporated the Greater Buffalo United Accountable Healthcare Network (GBUAHN) in 2009; and

**WHEREAS,** Under the able leadership of Dr. Raul Vazquez, GBUAHN has grown to serve several thousand members and employs a staff of approximately 150 individuals; additionally, GBUAHN is one of the largest minority employers in Western New York; and

**WHEREAS,** A true asset to society, Dr. Raul Vazquez co-founded the Raul and Toni Vazquez Foundation, Inc. in 2008, to protect and enhance the abilities of non-profit health care organizations to serve society and their individual communities; and

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Raul Vazquez is also the founder of the Greater Buffalo United Accountable Care Organization, an accountable care organization that seeks to transform patient lives and communities with innovative models of healthcare; and

**WHEREAS,** With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to his community, Dr. Raul Vazquez has served on the board of directors for numerous organizations, including Health Care Advisory Panel, Promesa Inc., HEALTHeLINK, Upstate New York Transplant Services (UNYTS), Hispanic United of Buffalo, The Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, WNED Television, and Bryant & Stratton College; and

**WHEREAS,** He has also served as a member of the New York State Medicaid Advisory Committee on the Minority Health Council; and

**WHEREAS,** An accomplished and well-loved member of the community, Dr. Raul Vazquez has been the proud recipient of more than 20 awards for his accomplishments in business, the medical field and advocacy groups; and

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Raul Vazquez lives in suburban Buffalo with his wife, Toni, and his four children, Raul III, Nadia, Nina, and Saul; and

**WHEREAS,** Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Raul Vazquez has displayed throughout his life; and

**WHEREAS,** It has always been the objective of this Legislative Body to honor and support those individuals who have displayed their commitment to the betterment of their communities, and it is the intent of this Legislative Body to inscribe upon its records, this tribute to Raul Vazquez, that future generations may know and appreciate his admirable character, his many benevolent deeds, and the respect and esteem in which he is held by his peers; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Raul Vazquez, M.D. upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the President's Award of Distinction by the Buffalo Branch NAACP; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Raul Vazquez, M.D.