

BY: Senator MAY

HONORING Sally Johnston upon the occasion of being inducted into the 2022 New York State Disability Rights Hall of Fame

WHEREAS, Individuals devoted to improving the quality of life for others, enabling them to build lives of dignity and self-worth are deserving of the highest praise and recognition; and

WHEREAS, From time to time, society calls upon these individuals to be recognized for the significance of their contributions and efforts to assist others in developing the skills necessary to be successful, productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Sally Johnston upon the occasion of being inducted into the 2022 New York State Disability Rights Hall of Fame to be celebrated at a Dinner Ceremony on Thursday, May 12, 2022, at the Albany Marriott; and

WHEREAS, Established in 2018 by New York State Independent Living Council, Inc., the New York State Disability Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have made life-long achievements which positively impact people with disabilities in society; Sally Johnston is one such individual; and

WHEREAS, Sally Johnston's accomplishments are many, but it was her advancement of Consumer Directed Personal Assistance (CDPA) that stands out the most; in the early 1990s, she persuaded a contingent from Syracuse, including the Onondaga County executive and others from the Local Department of Social Services, to visit New York City and examine this new model of community-based support; together, they worked to bring a demonstration program to Syracuse and Onondaga County; and

WHEREAS, As she worked to implement a pilot CDPA program in Onondaga County, Sally Johnston changed it to increase its effectiveness and attractiveness; she envisioned a CDPA program that could be implemented statewide and allowed those who needed more in the way of support from their Fiscal Intermediary (FI), to operate; and

WHEREAS, Through her tireless efforts, Sally Johnston changed the nature of the FI's role, introducing a level of support for the consumer that would forever alter the program and lead to the type of FI that most people, particularly those upstate, utilize today; and

WHEREAS, Sally Johnston became a leader in CDPA, helping FIs understand the program better and furthering both the program and its goals through the collective work of a broader community, which she brought together; and

WHEREAS, Sally Johnston then diligently worked to bring the collective of fiscal intermediaries operating around the state together

under one umbrella, an organization that was officially founded in 2000, and named the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Association of NYS (CDPAANYS), which serves as the only statewide resource on CDPA, advancing the program for both FIs and consumers; and

WHEREAS, For her steadfast and unrelenting commitment to people with developmental and intellectual disabilities, Sally Johnston was the recipient of the 1988 Ralph E. Kharas Award for Distinctive Service in Civil Liberties by the Central New York Chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the organization she helped form named an award in her honor; each year, the Sally Johnston Advocacy Award is given to an individual whose work on behalf of CDPA was critical for the success of the program and its grounding philosophy of independence and control; and

WHEREAS, After four decades of dedicated service, Sally Johnston retired in 2020; that same year, AccessCNY established the Sally Johnston Advocacy Center to recognize the many contributions she has made in advancing disability rights in Central New York; and

WHEREAS, Sally Johnston has truly played a leading role in removing barriers to independent living at a national level, however, her greatest accomplishments may be found in the hundreds of lives she has impacted, one day and one life at a time; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who 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 honor Sally Johnston upon the occasion of being inducted into the 2022 New York State Disability Rights Hall of Fame; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sally Johnston.