

BY: Senator RHOADS

COMMEMORATING the 60th Anniversary of Variety Child Learning Center and recognizing its exceptional service to children and their families

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor milestones of enduring significance, which reflect the strength, compassion, and character of the communities they serve, so fittingly cherished by this great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Variety Child Learning Center and recognize its exceptional service, marking six decades of pioneering education, early intervention, and family-centered support for children with autism, developmental delays, and a wide range of learning differences; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable milestone represents far more than the passage of time and stands as a profound testament to six decades of unwavering dedication, visionary leadership, and transformative impact on the lives of children and families; and

WHEREAS, Since its founding in 1966, at a time when autism and developmental challenges were not widely understood and were often misdiagnosed or surrounded by harmful misconceptions, Variety Child Learning Center has served as a beacon of hope, advancing early intervention, education, and family-centered care for children of all abilities; the Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that fosters the development, education, and inclusion of children who require specialized services; and

WHEREAS, From its humble beginnings as a single classroom in Garden City, the organization has grown into a vital regional resource, now operating multiple campuses across Long Island and ensuring that essential services are accessible to families throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties; and

WHEREAS, Today, headquartered in Syosset in a former school building purchased in the 1980s, Variety Child Learning Center operates four campuses, including two in Levittown and a recently opened location in East Northport which began serving children in September 2025; and

WHEREAS, Throughout six decades, Variety Child Learning Center has touched the lives of more than 15,000 children and families, fostering growth, independence, and confidence through individualized educational and therapeutic programs tailored to each child's unique needs; all aspects of a child's development, from six weeks through eight years of age, are addressed; and

WHEREAS, The enduring legacy of founder Judith S. Bloch, pioneer,

advocate, and visionary, continues to shape the organization's mission which is rooted in the belief that early intervention, family partnership, individualized support, and compassionate care can unlock the full potential of every child; her vision remains a guiding force, rooted in innovation; and

WHEREAS, Judith Bloch dedicated nearly five decades of her life to advancing opportunities for children and families, serving as the organization's CEO from its founding in 1966 until her retirement in 2012; her enduring legacy lives on not only in the thousands of lives touched by her work but also in the continued growth and mission of the organization she built; and

WHEREAS, The success and longevity of Variety Child Learning Center are a direct reflection of the dedication and expertise of its compassionate educators, social workers, psychologists, therapists, experienced administrative and executive leadership team, Board of Trustees, and staff whose collective efforts have created a nurturing environment where children are empowered to thrive; and

WHEREAS, As this organization marks its 60th Anniversary, it stands not only as a celebration of past accomplishments but also as an enduring symbol of innovation, inclusion, and the boundless possibilities that arise when a community comes together in service of its most vulnerable members; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Variety Child Learning Center and recognize its exceptional service to children and their families; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Variety Child Learning Center.