Assembly Resolution No. 1439

BY: M. of A. Bronson

CONGRATULATING Dr. Carol Podgorski upon the occasion of her retirement after many years of distinguished service to the University of Rochester Medical Center

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those distinguished individuals whose professional accomplishments and civic contributions have enhanced the quality of life in 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 congratulate Dr. Carol Podgorski upon the occasion of her retirement after a career of extraordinary service, scholarship, advocacy, and leadership in the fields of aging, behavioral health, and Alzheimer's care; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carol Podgorski is a nationally recognized leader whose distinguished career has bridged research, clinical innovation, education, and community impact, improving the lives of countless older adults, caregivers, families, and underserved communities throughout New York State and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Podgorski has served with distinction as Professor and Associate Chair of Faculty Affairs in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Rochester Medical Center, where she has advanced integrated approaches to mental health and aging while mentoring, supervising, and educating future generations of clinicians, researchers, and scholars; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her exemplary career, Dr. Podgorski has held numerous leadership positions within the University of Rochester Medical Center, including Director of the Finger Lakes Center of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease, Clinic Director of the UR Medicine Memory Care Program, Psychiatry Department Discipline Chief for Marriage and Family Therapy, Director of Alzheimer's Disease Support Programs for the University of Rochester Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program, and Co-Leader of the Vital Living Core of the University of Rochester Aging Institute; and

WHEREAS, Through her leadership of the Finger Lakes Center of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease and the UR Medicine Memory Care Program, Dr. Podgorski has provided compassionate, evidence-based care for patients and families navigating complex cognitive conditions, strengthening systems of support for caregivers and enhancing quality of life for older adults throughout the Finger Lakes region and across New York State; and

WHEREAS, An accomplished clinician and scholar, Dr. Podgorski has dedicated her academic career to advancing medical family therapy

approaches to caregiving and developing family systems-oriented models of patient- and family-centered dementia care; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Podgorski earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Sociology and master's degrees in Public Health and Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of Rochester, combining interdisciplinary expertise with a steadfast commitment to public service and compassionate care; and

WHEREAS, A prolific author and researcher, Dr. Podgorski has authored and co-authored 29 journal articles and six book chapters, contributing significantly to the body of knowledge in gerontology, behavioral health, caregiving, and Alzheimer's disease treatment and support; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Podgorski has distinguished herself as an award-winning policy advocate and leader in professional organizations, serving as past president of the New York State Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and chair of its Family Team, where she led legislative advocacy efforts that helped secure Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial insurance coverage for family therapy services, thereby expanding access to behavioral health care for countless individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of her expertise and dedication, Dr. Podgorski has been appointed by the Governor to serve on the New York State Council for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia, and has further lent her leadership and insight to numerous professional, civic, and advisory organizations at the local, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Podgorski is a Clinical Fellow and Approved Supervisor of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, and a member of the Alzheimer's Association International Society to Advance Alzheimer's Research and Treatment, among many other professional affiliations and leadership appointments; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such caliber and achievement dedicate themselves to improving the well-being of others, they merit the highest recognition and gratitude of the people of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Dr. Carol Podgorski upon the occasion of her retirement, and to honor her for her distinguished career, steadfast leadership, and enduring contributions to the fields of aging, behavioral health, family therapy, and Alzheimer's care; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Carol Podgorski.