Assembly Resolution No. 996

BY: M. of A. Lupardo

COMMEMORATING the 10th Anniversary of Truth Pharm

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those organizations within the State of New York whose dedication, advocacy, and service have strengthened communities and advanced the public good; and

WHEREAS, Truth Pharm is a nonprofit organization founded in October 2015 in Broome County, New York, in response to the devastating impact of the opioid and overdose epidemic; and

WHEREAS, Truth Pharm was established by Alexis Pleus following the tragic loss of her son to an overdose, transforming personal grief into a sustained movement dedicated to saving lives and reforming public policy; and

WHEREAS, What began as a grassroots effort to support individuals and families affected by substance use in Broome County has grown into a nationally recognized leader in harm reduction, advocacy, and education; and

WHEREAS, Truth Pharm is widely known for its creation of the "Trail of Truth," a moving memorial installation honoring the lives lost to the overdose epidemic and raising awareness of the human toll of substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, Over the past decade, Truth Pharm has played a significant role in reshaping public understanding of substance use disorder, participating in advocacy and policy reform efforts at the county, state, and national levels, and working to reduce stigma and promote evidence-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, The organization provides vital, free services to the community, including support groups, a drop-in center, educational programming, naloxone training, and other harm reduction initiatives designed to prevent overdose fatalities and connect individuals to care; and

WHEREAS, Guided by a vision of a world in which individuals who use substances can live free from discrimination and those with substance use disorder can readily obtain effective treatment, Truth Pharm advances a mission to raise awareness, reduce stigma, educate the public, and advocate for policy changes that reduce the harms caused by substance use; and

WHEREAS, Distinct in its approach, Truth Pharm is not an anti-drug organization but an anti-harm organization, recognizing that substance use exists across communities and circumstances, and focusing its efforts on reducing harm, addressing systemic inequalities, reforming aspects of the justice system, and promoting dignity and evidence-based

responses; and

WHEREAS, Through sustained advocacy, Truth Pharm supports medical treatment for incarcerated individuals, promotes research to improve treatment outcomes, advances non-discrimination policies, calls for increased funding and the implementation of effective programs, and works toward ending policies that have exacerbated the harms of the drug war; and

WHEREAS, The organization remains committed to educating the public, medical professionals, and criminal justice professionals on the science of substance use disorders and addiction, the rights of those who use drugs, and the causes, effects, and evidence-based harm reduction strategies that save lives; and

WHEREAS, The 10th Anniversary of Truth Pharm provides an opportunity to reflect upon a decade of tireless advocacy, community service, and transformative leadership, as well as to recognize the organization's enduring hope that one day such services will no longer be necessary because overdose fatalities have been significantly reduced and the epidemic brought to an end; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of Truth Pharm, honoring its steadfast commitment to harm reduction, public education, policy reform, and compassionate service to the people of the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Truth Pharm.