

2023-K631

Assembly Resolution No. 631

BY: M. of A. Fahy

CONGRATULATING David Wollner upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 40 years of dedicated service to New York State

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize those individuals who have dedicated their lives to public service, striving diligently to enhance the quality of life in their communities and to bring about positive change for the public good; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate David Wollner upon the occasion of his retirement after over 40 years of dedicated service to the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, David Wollner has served the people of the State of New York with distinction during his 42 Legislative Sessions, he started his career in public service as a Senate Fellow, before joining the staff of Senator Donovan, David would continue on as a Program Analyst for the New York State Senate Majority where he covered and was the lead on many critical policy issues; and

WHEREAS, In further State service, David Wollner would go to work as a key member in the administration of Governor George Pataki, where he would work tirelessly in numerous fields including in the area of healthcare, where he was deeply involved in many key policy decisions of

the time, including the Health Care Reform Act; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, David would become Director at the New York State Department of Health, where he oversaw the Office of Health Systems Management, the Office of Professional Misconduct, and the Office of Continuing Care; and

WHEREAS, Since 2007, David has held the position of Legislative Coordinator at the New York State Office of Mental Health; where he has worked to advance the Office of Mental Health's efforts to protect and strengthen the public mental health system, provide exceptional legislative and budgetary advice to help advance the Office's mission to facilitate hope, recovery, and resilience; and

WHEREAS, With the use of his flip-phone, few, if any Albany insiders could boast the Rolodex of contacts and the encyclopedic knowledge of issues David was involved in; and

WHEREAS, David Wollner has demonstrated an unyielding commitment to the betterment of the people of New York, and his exceptional work has been recognized with numerous awards and accolades including being recognized in 2022 as the CEO Award Recipient by the Mental Health Association in New York State; and

WHEREAS, A proud graduate of Syracuse University's class of 1981 with a BA in Political Science, David would continue on to become a proud alumnus from the State University of Albany-Rockefeller College

with a Master of Public Administration, Legislative Administration in 1983; and

WHEREAS, David Wollner's leadership and expertise will be deeply

missed by his colleagues at the New York State Office of Mental Health and throughout the mental health community in New York State; and

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon all citizens to recognize and applaud the efforts of individuals such as David Wollner who work tirelessly on behalf of advocating for New Yorkers diagnosed with a mental illness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate David Wollner upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 40 years of dedicated service to the people of the State of New York, and to wish him continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to David Wollner.