

2023-J2568

Senate Resolution No. 2568

BY: Senator RAMOS

RECOGNIZING the New York Chapter of the National
Domestic Workers Alliance

WHEREAS, From time to time, this Legislative Body takes note of certain organizations whom it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions and to publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to recognize the New York Chapter of the National Domestic Workers Alliance; and

WHEREAS, Born on October 13, 1924, Dorothy Bolden began working as a domestic worker at the age of nine and continued for 50 years; in the early 1960s, she started educating and advocating for the rights of domestic workers such as nannies, caregivers of the elderly, and house cleaners; and

WHEREAS, In 1968, on the advice and encouragement of her neighbor, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dorothy Bolden founded the National Domestic Workers Union of America (NDWUA); the NDWUA eventually represented more than 30,000 domestic workers across 10 cities and was the longest-surviving union of domestic workers in U.S. cities; Dorothy Bolden helped legitimize and organize domestic workers on a scale the

country had never seen before and as a result, deserves the highest praise and recognition for her unrelenting and admirable efforts; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the National Domestic Workers Alliance and We Dream in Black celebrate Dorothy Bolden's birthday and the legacy she left for domestic workers; this year marks what would be her 100th birthday; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, New York became the first state to win a Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, a benefit that undoubtedly was able to come to fruition as a result of the lifelong efforts of Dorothy Bolden and other pioneers alike; and

WHEREAS, Domestic workers in New York play a pivotal role in the country's electoral landscape, mirroring a national trend of systemic inequities that are limiting many voters to thrive in their communities, ranging from healthcare access to rising cost of living and a worsening care crisis; despite New York's pioneering efforts, being the first state to pass a Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, the struggle continues for fair pay, adequate benefits, and robust legal protections; and

WHEREAS, In June 2007, over 50 domestic workers from across the country met in Atlanta, Georgia as part of the first United States Social Forum (USSF) for a national domestic worker gathering; they came together to support their organizing through exchanges and capacity-building and represented thousands of childcare, house cleaning, and home care workers who were organizing across the country for dignity and justice; and

WHEREAS, On the final day of the gathering these domestic workers made a groundbreaking decision to form a national organization - the

National Domestic Worker Alliance; and

WHEREAS, The New York Chapter lifts up the voices and experiences of New York domestic workers through organizing, storytelling, workforce development, and leadership development; the New York Chapter of NDWA offer know your rights trainings; support for domestic workers to recover stolen wages; leadership trainings and workforce development trainings; and

WHEREAS, Powered by a proud tradition of domestic workers tirelessly organizing against long-standing exclusion from fundamental labor law protections, NDWA is both a national federation of 70 affiliate grassroots organizations, 7 local chapters, and a national membership organization where domestic workers can connect with each other and participate in creating social change; and

WHEREAS, The National Domestic Workers Alliance's New York Chapter members stand in the strong and proud legacy of Dorothy Bolden's work and resistance; and

WHEREAS, The New York Chapter of the NDWA has won a Division of Paid Care in New York City's Department of Consumer and Worker Protection; added protections for domestic workers against sexual harassment at the New York City and New York State level; the inclusion of domestic workers in the first-of-its-kind Paid Safe and Sick Leave in NYC, and then extending sick days for domestic workers for a total of 5 sick days in New York City; inclusion in the State's Paid Family Leave law so that domestic workers may take maternity leave or leave to care for a loved one; and since 2016, the organization has recovered over \$500,000 in stolen wages for domestic workers through our domestic worker specific legal clinic; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize the New York Chapter of the National Domestic Workers Alliance; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the New York Chapter of the National Domestic Workers Alliance.