

2011-K201

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the life and work of Susan M. Cohen, breast cancer survivor, nationally recognized breast cancer activist, and founding chairperson of the New York State Breast Cancer Network

WHEREAS, Susan M. Cohen devoted her life to giving voice to those who were not being heard; and

WHEREAS, Susan M. Cohen worked for decades as a community organizer and housing lawyer for low-income New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, When diagnosed with breast cancer in 1993, Susan M. Cohen took her well-honed skills as a community organizer to the burgeoning breast cancer movement; and

WHEREAS, Susan M. Cohen quickly became well-versed in current medical research and public policy issues affecting New Yorkers with breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, Susan M. Cohen's expertise in breast cancer was recognized both statewide and nationally and she was invited to serve on many research review panels over the next seventeen years, working hand-in-hand with medical researchers to address access to quality care, environmental issues related to breast cancer, survivor support services, and improved treatment options; and

WHEREAS, In 1998, Susan M. Cohen joined together with a few other breast cancer activists from across New York State to form the New York State Breast Cancer Network, the first and only statewide network of community-based, survivor-driven breast cancer organizations in the country; and

WHEREAS, Under the thoughtful and skilled leadership of Susan M. Cohen as its Chair, the New York State Breast Cancer Network has educated New York State legislators and leaders about the important issues affecting the breast cancer community; and

WHEREAS, Under the thoughtful and skilled leadership of Susan M. Cohen, the New York State Breast Cancer Network has played a pivotal role in getting important breast cancer-related legislation passed into law, such as the breast cancer survivors' support initiative, putting breast cancer survivors on the New York State Health Research Science Board as voting members, the restricting of bisphenol A (BPA) in children's products, and many others; and

WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Susan M. Cohen, the New York State Breast Cancer Network has also held an education and advocacy day in Albany every year since 1999; and

WHEREAS, This annual education and advocacy day has been heretofore renamed the New York State Breast Cancer Network's Susan M. Cohen Education and Advocacy Day; and

WHEREAS, This year's New York State Breast Cancer Network's Susan M. Cohen Education and Advocacy Day will be held Tuesday, March 15, 2011; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the life and work of Susan M. Cohen, and all she contributed to the breast cancer community and to New York State, and to recognize this year's New York State Breast Cancer Network's Susan M. Cohen Education and Advocacy Day on March 15, 2011; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the New York State Breast Cancer Network.