

## 2011-J676

LEGISLATIVE, RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Frances Fox Piven upon the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the publication of REGULATING THE POOR: THE FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC WELFARE

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that individuals who distinguish themselves in their profession and who have dedicated their lives to improving the lives of others merit the highest commendation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to pay tribute to Dr. Frances Fox Piven, Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Sociology at the CUNY Graduate Center, upon the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the publication of REGULATING THE POOR: THE FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC WELFARE, her groundbreaking book on social policy in the United States; and

WHEREAS, REGULATING THE POOR: THE FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC WELFARE, remains a pioneering social analysis of the Great Depression and the social upheaval of the 1960s, co-authored by Dr. Piven with her late husband, Richard Cloward; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Piven has dedicated her life to making sure all Americans have work, food on the table, and above all a voice in our democracy; over the past half century, she has written more than ten books and countless articles exploring the causes of poverty in the United States, the government's role in alleviating economic suffering, and the power of working people to join together to gain a voice in the corridors of power; and

WHEREAS, She has put her principles into action as well, leading efforts to expand voting rights, access to the social safety net, and the ability of all Americans to make their voices heard; and

WHEREAS, Putting her ideals into practice, Dr. Piven, and her husband Richard Cloward, worked to fight for greater access to services for the poor; her efforts were instrumental in enabling needy people to receive federal aid; and

WHEREAS, In the 1980s, Dr. Piven was a leader in the movement to expand access to the ballot box to traditionally disenfranchised groups, including the poor, African Americans, and immigrants; her movement was a driving force behind the passage of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, also known as the "Motor Voter Act," which requires all social services agencies, including public assistance and disability centers, as well as Departments of Motor Vehicles, to offer voter registration forms to the public; and

WHEREAS, When President Bill Clinton signed the bill into law at a White House ceremony in 1993, Dr. Piven spoke and was honored to receive one of the pens the President used to sign the bill as a testament to her key role in the law's passage; her work expanding access to the ballot box also earned her the National Association of Secretaries' Annual Award in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Since 1982, Dr. Piven has taught in the Political Science and Sociology Departments at The City University of New York Graduate Center and, for the past 30 years, she has served as a mentor to countless New Yorkers who have taken their place as productive educators and scholars in the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, In keeping with its time-honored traditions, this Legislative Body is proud to honor individuals, such as Dr. Frances Fox Piven, who distinguish themselves in their chosen field of endeavor, dedicating themselves to its enhancement and leading it in new directions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. Frances Fox Piven upon the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the publication of her important work REGULATING THE POOR: THE FUNCTIONS

OF PUBLIC WELFARE; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Frances Fox Piven.