

## 2015-J472

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Mike Feurstein for special recognition as creator and founder of "How to UnMake a Bully"

WHEREAS, It is imperative to safeguard schools and communities for the children of the State of New York, and, through the recognition of the serious issues that face them each day, offer our children an environment that holds promise and security; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals of remarkable integrity and character whose endeavors have enhanced the quality of life and education in this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, An award-winning filmmaker, Mike Feurstein, affectionately known as Mr. Mike, is dedicated to giving students a voice in the stand against bullying through film and anti-bullying education; and

WHEREAS, Creator and founder of "How to UnMake a Bully" and partner in the DON'T WAIT to UnMake a Bully program, Mike Feurstein brings media into classrooms for project-based enrichment and runs summer video camps for middle school students; he has filmed in many area school districts including Ballston Spa Central School, Saratoga Springs City School, Schenectady City School, and most recently, Greater Amsterdam School District; and

WHEREAS, A filmmaker from Schenectady, New York, Mike Feurstein also serves as a teacher's aide; his students' work has been screened throughout the world, including the National Film Festival for Talented Youth; and

WHEREAS, Mike Feurstein's educational series "How to UnMake a Bully" earned Telly and Sage College Champion of Character Awards, as well as endorsements from the Kids' Coalition for Quality Children's Media, The Anti-Defamation League, and CBS-6 News, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the 27-minute film, "How to UnMake a Bully", was so well received it is being utilized by international organizations as one of the best tools available for anti-bullying instruction; and

WHEREAS, In its third year, the DON'T WAIT to UnMake a Bully program is impacting students, teachers, administrators and communities throughout the country; from New York to Washington state, this vital program has been instrumental in the stand against bullying through positive media; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Mike Feurstein has displayed throughout his life; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Mike Feurstein for special recognition as creator and founder of "How to UnMake a Bully"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mike Feurstein.