

2015-J1247

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Jeffrey H. Stern, Ph.D., M.D. upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2015 Professional of the Year Award by the Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey H. Stern, Ph.D., M.D. has given not only of his time and energies but also of his competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special recognition; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Jeffrey H. Stern, Ph.D., M.D. upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2015 Professional of the Year Award by the Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany, to be celebrated at its Annual Visionary Gala, on Saturday, April 18, 2015, at the Franklin Plaza Ballroom in Troy, New York; and

WHEREAS, Since 1908, the Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany (NABA) has provided comprehensive services and programs to residents of the greater Capital Region who are blind or visually impaired; in 2014, they helped over 700 individuals of all ages across 14 counties adapt to vision loss, maximize remaining vision, achieve their goals, and expand their independence; and

WHEREAS, This vital organization also offered screenings to over 2,500 children between the ages of 18 months and five years of age for possible vision problems; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jeffrey H. Stern obtained his Doctor of Medicine degree in Miami, Florida; he then fulfilled the requirements of his ophthalmology residency at Albany Medical Center, and his retina fellowship at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Before becoming a retina specialist, Dr. Jeffrey H. Stern performed research, earning a Ph.D. in Biophysics from Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, and successfully completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Rockefeller University in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jeffrey H. Stern's research aimed to understand how light gets converted into vision; he studied the intricacies of the retina at the University College in London, and at the Marine Biological Laboratories in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, where he met his wife, Sally Temple, in 1983; and

WHEREAS, In 1986, Dr. Jeffrey H. Stern and Sally Temple moved to Delmar, New York; today, he and his partners, Dr. Michael Radosevich and Dr. Hao Wang, own and operate a well-established Albany-based private practice caring for patients with retina problems; the doctors refer many patients to NABA and are dedicated supporters of this vital organization; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, Dr. Jeffrey H. Stern and Sally Temple co-founded the Regenerative Research Foundation and the Neural Stem Cell Institute in Rensselaer, New York, where they focus on how stem cells may impact nervous system disorders, and in particular, retina and macular degeneration; and

WHEREAS, Six years later, the couple's progressive stem cell research produced StemBeads, which are now used in more than 100 laboratories to improve stem cell cultures; and

WHEREAS, Together, Dr. Jeffrey H. Stern and Sally Temple co-discovered a unique stem cell present in the human retinal pigment epithelium (RPESC) in 2012; two years later, they won a substantial New York State grant to transplant these cells as a regenerative therapy for Age-related Macular degeneration (AMD); and

WHEREAS, Currently, Dr. Jeffrey H. Stern and his wife are working closely with several entities, including the FDA, the University of Rochester, the University of Michigan, the State University of New York

at Albany, and Fordham University to make this monumental clinical study a reality; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, Dr. Jeffrey H. Stern was the recipient of a National Eye Institute Audacious Goals Prize to activate endogenous stem cells for retinal repair without transplantation; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his ongoing clinical research, Dr. Jeffrey H. Stern is working on a project aimed at awakening dormant stem cells in the retina for endogenous self-repair and retinal regeneration without surgery as therapy for macular degeneration and retinitis pigmentosa; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Sally, and his three children, Rebecca, Samuel, and Joshua, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Dr. Jeffrey H. Stern has displayed throughout his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Jeffrey H. Stern, Ph.D., M.D. upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2015 Professional of the Year Award by the Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jeffrey H. Stern, Ph.D., M.D.