

## 2015-J3582

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Liz Benjamin and Jasmine Shea upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood on February 12, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge those exemplary individuals whose purposeful lives and distinguished careers have been committed to bettering the quality of life in this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Liz Benjamin and Jasmine Shea upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood at its Roe V. Wade Celebration to be held on Friday, February 12, 2016, at the Renaissance Albany Hotel in Albany, New York; and

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, Both Liz Benjamin and Jasmine Shea have given not only of their time and energies but also of their competence, intelligence and leadership and, consequently, have been designated for these special honors; and

WHEREAS, Each year near the anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision, Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood proudly honors advocates for choice at its Roe V. Wade Celebration in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, 43 years ago, the United States Supreme Court ruled that a woman's constitutional right to privacy includes her right to abortion; one in three American women will have had an abortion by the time she reaches age 45; and

WHEREAS, This year, Planned Parenthood Advocates of New York, Upper

Hudson Chapter, is honoring Liz Benjamin with the 2016 Nellie Bly Award for Fearless Journalism for her tireless commitment to covering the issues important to women in her community and for covering issues effecting reproductive rights; and

WHEREAS, For more than 15 years, Liz Benjamin has been a strong investigative reporter asking the tough questions and breaking news in print and online; as the host of "Capital Tonight", she has shined the light on issues which affect everyone in her community and throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, Jasmine Shea is being honored by Planned Parenthood Advocates of New York, Upper Hudson Chapter, with the 2016 Sarah Weddington Award for Youth Leadership for her tireless work and commitment to reproductive rights; and

WHEREAS, The viral campaign around the Hobby Lobby issue, the Saturday one-woman counter protests and the PinkOUT event, highlight Jasmine Shea's unique and energetic commitment to the cause of women and reproductive freedom; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of their service, a period of constructive involvement, Liz Benjamin and Jasmine Shea have stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; 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 the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Liz Benjamin and Jasmine Shea, upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood on February 12, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Liz Benjamin and Jasmine Shea.