

2015-K1343

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Bryan O'Malley upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr. Advocacy Award on May 16, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those individuals within the great Empire State who have made strong contributions to the disability community; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Bryan O'Malley of Albany, New York, upon the occasion of his designation as the 12th recipient of the Annual Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr. Advocacy Award presented at the 2016 Legislative Disabilities Awareness Day sponsored by the New York State Assembly Task Force on People with Disabilities and the New York State Assembly Committee on Mental Health on Monday, May 16, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr. Advocacy Award was created in 2005 to honor the late Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr. for his lifelong commitment to advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The tremendous efforts that Bryan O'Malley has made to improve and enhance the lives of New Yorkers with disabilities are worthy of this recognition; and

WHEREAS, Bryan O'Malley has been the Executive Director of the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Association of New York State since March of 2011; and

WHEREAS, During Bryan O'Malley's time at the organization, his work has been based on the premise that by raising awareness of Consumer Directed Personal Assistance and the issues that go with it, we will increase the visibility and strength of the program; and

WHEREAS, Much of Bryan O'Malley's effort since he took the position has been dedicated to making sure the program transitioned successfully

to managed care; in doing so, he has been successful in not only protecting, but leading efforts to strengthen the program by protecting the rights of those who use the program, and working with managed care companies to ensure expanded use and access to the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program; and

WHEREAS, For the last two years, Bryan O'Malley has led the organization's effort to improve the quality of CDPA by increasing wages for personal assistants; and

WHEREAS, Bryan O'Malley brings to this position a strong commitment to the basic civil rights that are at the core of the disability rights movement and the OLMSTEAD decision that has woven throughout his career; and

WHEREAS, Immediately before coming to CDPAANYS, Bryan O'Malley was Deputy Director for Health and Human Services for the New York State Senate; and

WHEREAS, In his brief tenure there, Bryan O'Malley was responsible for negotiating the \$49 billion Health budget and providing recommendations to the conference on how to proceed on all matters related to health; and

WHEREAS, Prior to working in the Senate, Bryan O'Malley worked for Assembly Health Committee Chair Richard Gottfried, where he focused on disability issues, access to health care, pharmaceuticals and other critical issues; and

WHEREAS, Bryan O'Malley also spent time with the Mental Health Association in New York State, where he was the organizational campaign manager on Timothy's Law, a measure that brought mental health parity to New York; and

WHEREAS, Bryan O'Malley received his Master's in Social Work from SUNY Albany and his undergraduate from Providence College; and

WHEREAS, Bryan O'Malley has dedicated both his professional and personal life to improving the lives of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The initiatives that Bryan O'Malley strives to implement as a passionate advocate for persons with disabilities mirror the priorities that this Legislative Body has before us today, the New York State Assembly Legislative Disabilities Awareness Day 2016; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to honor Bryan O'Malley, a leader and an advocate, recognizing his labors and the promise of his future endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Bryan O'Malley upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr. Advocacy Award by the New York State Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Bryan O'Malley.