

2015-K1498

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 16, 2016, as Education Support Professionals Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are set aside to highlight the men and women who lend their passion and skills to educating our children; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 16, 2016, as Education Support Professionals Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Education Support Professionals Day; and

WHEREAS, National ESP Day honors and recognizes the contributions education support professionals (ESPs) make to public education; it is a time to strengthen support and show respect for ESPs, who are equal and essential partners in public education; and

WHEREAS, The National Education Association is the nation's largest professional employee organization, representing three million education support professionals, elementary and secondary teachers, higher education faculty, school administrators, retired educators, and students preparing to become educators; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, the NEA Representative Assembly called for the creation of a special way to honor the contributions of public school support staff; National Education Support Personnel Day was established and celebrated that year; since then, it has been observed on the Wednesday during American Education Week, which is celebrated the first full week before Thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS, NEA's National Council of Education Support Professionals (NCESP) successfully campaigned at the 2002 Representative Assembly to change ESPs' formal name from Educational Support Personnel to Education

Support Professionals; and

WHEREAS, The name change reflects a growing pride in the essential role ESPs play in creating great public schools for every American student; and

WHEREAS, Education Support Professionals are made up of instructional assistants, paraeducators, office workers, health and student services employees, food services workers, custodians, maintenance workers, bus drivers, security guards, technology specialists, and skilled trades workers; and

WHEREAS, These outstanding individuals provide invaluable services that enable students to learn in positive, supportive environments; they work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, Education Support Professionals are often the first people our schoolchildren encounter on a daily basis; they are the people who drive our children to school, help them cross the street, provide them a nutritious meal, and keep their school buildings clean and safe; 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 memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 16, 2016, as Education Support Professionals Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.