

## 2021-J542

Senate Resolution No. 542

BY: Senator RAMOS

### RECOGNIZING Human Services Workers as Essential Workers

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to recognize Human Services Workers as Essential Workers; and

WHEREAS, Nonprofit human services workers are on the frontlines risking their lives during the global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Nonprofit human services organizations are critical to the health, safety, and overall well-being of New York's communities; and

WHEREAS, The nonprofit human services workforce is predominately made up of women (80 percent) and more than half are people of color; and

WHEREAS, Many nonprofit human services workers are well-educated,

with 41 percent having a four-year college degree and 25 percent having an associate degree or some college, but are still among the lowest paid workers in New York; and

WHEREAS, The nonprofit sector is an economic engine, employing roughly 18 percent of New York State's workforce; and

WHEREAS, Nonprofit human services workers: provide early childhood education and after-school programs, run food pantries, provide mental health counseling, shelter people experiencing homelessness, and care for the elderly, among many other vital community services to vulnerable New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, These vital workers have always been essential to the people of the State of New York and have gone over and above during the COVID-19 crisis to ensure our communities have access to food, technology, shelter, mental health services and countless other lifesaving programs; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body, representing all New Yorkers, stands with nonprofit human services workers and will continue to work to ensure fair wages on State contracts and adequate human services funding for our communities; and

WHEREAS, Actions such as these would improve New York's recovery, particularly in communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 due to structural racism, ableism, and income inequality, with Black and Brown New Yorkers suffering profound harm now; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the

recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State;  
now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to  
recognize Human Services Workers as Essential Workers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be  
transmitted to Human Services Council of New York.