

2021-K367

Assembly Resolution No. 367

BY: M. of A. Walker

CELEBRATING the 50th Anniversary of the passage by the United States Congress of the 26th Amendment, providing for the voting rights of 18, 19 and 20 year-olds, to the Constitution of the United States

WHEREAS, On March 23, 1971, Congress passed the 26th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, guided by the shared ideals of freedom, sovereignty, democracy, civil liberties, and individual rights; and

WHEREAS, Since the lowering of the draft age to 18 in World War II, there had been repeated efforts to lower the voting age to address the fact that there were young men who were old enough to fight a world war, but not old enough to vote in the country they were fighting for; and

WHEREAS, On March 10, 1971, the United States Senate voted 94-0 in support of proposing an amendment that would lower the minimum voting age to 18 everywhere in the country, and on March 23rd, the United States House of Representatives voted 401-19 for the amendment; and

WHEREAS, On July 1, 1971, three-quarters of the states ratified the amendment, just three months for 38 states to ratify the Amendment, the fastest any amendment had been approved; and

WHEREAS, The introduction, passage, and ultimate ratification of the 26th Amendment was the culmination of years of work and struggle by advocates for the rights of young adults across the United States; and

WHEREAS, The ratification of the 26th Amendment ensured young adults could more fully participate in our democracy and fundamentally changed the role of young adults in the civic life of our Nation; and

WHEREAS, The 26th Amendment gave young people rights to directly participate in the political process and amplified their voices in the campaigns for civil rights, environmental protection, women's rights and for ending the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, The 50th Anniversary of Congress' ratification of the 26th Amendment represents a historical milestone to be lauded and celebrated, and will be observed at an event on Wednesday, June 2, 2021; in the year 1971, on June 2nd, New York as a State ratified the 26th Amendment; and

WHEREAS, The 26th Amendment provides for young adult suffrage, promotes the core values of our democracy as promised by the Constitution of the United States, continues to strengthen democratic participation, and inspires future generations to cherish and preserve the historic precedent established under its ratification; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the passage by the United States Congress of the 26th Amendment, providing for the voting rights of 18, 19 and 20 year-olds, to the Constitution of the United States.