

2021-J2799

Senate Resolution No. 2799

BY: Senator MAYER

COMMEMORATING the 125th Anniversary of the New York State Parent Teacher Association

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to foster the health and well-being of its citizens and engage in a conscientious commitment to advancing the safety and advocacy for students across this great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the New York State Parent Teacher Association; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Incorporated, or New York State Parent Teacher Association (NYS PTA) is the oldest and largest child advocacy association in New York State, founded in 1897 in Syracuse, New York; and

WHEREAS, The mission of NYS PTA is to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child; and

WHEREAS, The vision of NYS PTA is to make every child's potential a reality by establishing the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. as the premier association for parent engagement and advocacy for all children; and

WHEREAS, NYS PTA is honored to represent the parents and families of its 2.6 million school children, and has nearly 250,000 volunteer members in 12 regions across the State of New York, in more than 1,450

school buildings; and

WHEREAS, The current President of the NYS PTA, Dana Platin, is a school-related Kindergarten professional in the Sachem School District, a tireless advocate for students with disabilities, and her presidential theme is "Shining a Light on Every Child with One Voice"; and

WHEREAS, NYS PTA's current Executive Director Kyle Belokopitsky, Esq. was named a NYS Senate Woman of Distinction and Education Power 100 Recipient; she has committed her life to supporting children and families, and is extremely proud of her work in family engagement, supporting students with disabilities, and diversity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, Recent NYS PTA Past Presidents include Jane Harsha, Lorey Zaman, Gracemarie Rozea, Bonnie Russell, Lana Ajemian, Maria Fletcher, Susan Lipman, and Maria Dewald; and

WHEREAS, A leader in offering programs, awards, scholarships, and supports for students, parents, families, and educators, the NYS PTA has launched an extensive Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative, and offers arts, literacy, wellness, health, mental health, safety, family engagement, parent/family resources, and educational programs and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, The NYS PTA has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including the Jan Harpe Domene Diversity and Inclusion Award for outstanding achievement in the areas of diversity, inclusion, and efforts to end discriminatory practices; it also received the National PTA 2018 Outstanding State PTA Advocacy Award and the 2021 Outstanding State PTA Advocacy Award for dedication, leadership, and efforts that positively affected legislative and/or regulatory policy; and

WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic, the NYS PTA launched a new direct services model of support, assisting families with finding food sources and facilitating enrollment in SNAP, WIC and health insurance benefits for children; NYS PTA also launched a new virtual support series for parents, families, educators, schools, and PTAs, bringing

critical and timely information on health and wellness topics; and

WHEREAS, NYS PTA held more than 150 specialized workshops and webinars for parents, families, educators, and students in the past two years, and continues to provide both in-person and virtual learning and training experiences; and

WHEREAS, NYS PTA is also a provider of continuing teacher leader education for NYS educators providing high-quality training for classroom teachers and related professionals on matters affecting students; and

WHEREAS, It is the objective of this Legislative Body to support programs and organizations which have the objective to empower and educate the students, parents, and educators throughout the State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the New York State Parent Teacher Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dana Platin, President, New York State Parent Teacher Association.