

2023-J2682

Senate Resolution No. 2682

BY: Senator STEWART-COUSINS

CELEBRATING former Senator Neil D. Breslin upon the occasion of his designation as the recipient of the President Pro Tempore and Senate Majority Leader's Legislative Legacy Award

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those individuals of outstanding purpose whose lives have been committed to public service and the pursuit of excellence in the conduct of the legislative process in this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing tradition, this Legislative Body is justly proud to reflect upon those extraordinary individuals who have made everlasting contributions on behalf of their fellow men and women and have left their mark on this great Empire State; Senator Neil D. Breslin is one such individual; he truly devoted his life to serving his government with integrity and commitment for the sole purpose of serving the needs of others; and

WHEREAS, Senator Neil D. Breslin was first elected to the New York State Senate in 1996 and was re-elected for an impressive 13 consecutive terms following his initial years of service; in this esteemed position, he was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems in his official acts; and

WHEREAS, Senator Neil D. Breslin represented District 46 which includes parts of Albany County, parts of Schenectady County, and Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, Senator Neil D. Breslin served as a long-time Co-Chair of the New York State Legislative Ethics Commission and served on the Conference Leadership team for over a decade; in 2019, he was appointed Vice President Pro Tempore; and

WHEREAS, Senator Neil D. Breslin served as the former and longest-serving President of the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) and former Chair of NCOIL's Special Committee on Race in Insurance Underwriting; and

WHEREAS, As a State leader, Senator Neil D. Breslin was well-known for his effective leadership and steadfast commitment to his constituents; during his career, he worked tirelessly as an advocate providing leadership and meaningful initiatives that protect our most vulnerable: our children, seniors, and the disadvantaged through homelessness prevention programs, expanding access to health insurance, supplemental nutrition, and safe, affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, His passion for advocacy and action has brought both light and aid to countless individuals and families who have fallen victim to poverty, systemic inequality, addiction, or domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, During his distinguished tenure in this Legislative Body, Senator Neil D. Breslin sponsored numerous bills that were enacted into

law and have made deep and lasting changes to better the lives of the residents of New York State; among these important accomplishments are laws to limit prescription drug formulary changes during a contract year

(Chapter 780 of the Laws of 2021), provide for pharmacy benefit management and the procurement of prescription drugs at a negotiated rate for dispensation (Chapter 828 of the Laws of 2021), and authorizing payments to non-participating or non-preferred providers of ambulance services licensed under article 30 of the public health law (Chapter 649 of the Laws of 2023); and

WHEREAS, As the Chair of the New York State Senate Standing Committee on Insurance, Senator Neil D. Breslin was dedicated to protecting patients and healthcare consumers in New York; and

WHEREAS, In acknowledgment of his longtime commitment to New York's public colleges and universities, Senator Neil D. Breslin was the recipient of numerous awards, including the auspicious UAlbany Medallion Award; and

WHEREAS, Senator Neil D. Breslin was not only known for his success as a legislator, but for his passion for mentoring new legislators, staff, and others, leaving a lasting impression on the next generation of leaders and lawmakers; and

WHEREAS, Prior to his service in public office, Senator Neil D. Breslin was a practicing attorney at a practice he formed with his two brothers, Michael and Thomas; and

WHEREAS, Senator Neil D. Breslin obtained a BS Degree in Political Science on Academic Scholarship from Fordham College; and

WHEREAS, Senator Neil D. Breslin attended law school at the University of Toledo, and while he was there, was named the editor-in-chief of the Law Review; and

WHEREAS, In light of his many accomplishments and historic impact on the State Legislature and the Empire State itself, the President Pro Tempore and Senate Majority Leader has bestowed the Legislative Legacy Award to honor his legacy on this State and his beloved community on the occasion of his retirement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate former Senator Neil D. Breslin upon the occasion of his designation as the recipient of the President Pro Tempore and Senate Majority Leader's Legislative Legacy Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Neil D. Breslin.