

## 2013-J2902

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 35th Anniversary of YouthBuild USA, to be celebrated on October 2, 2013

WHEREAS, It is the sense 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 organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is also the practice of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those organizations of outstanding purpose that enhance the quality of education of the young people of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of YouthBuild USA; the accomplishments of this ground-breaking organization will be celebrated on Wednesday, October 2, 2013, with a strategy Breakfast, Forum, and Luncheon Celebration, hosted by the Ford Foundation, in Manhattan, New York; and

WHEREAS, In addition, at the event YouthBuild USA will honor former Senator and now Secretary of State John Kerry, and Bill White, President of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, for their leadership in making YouthBuild a reality in hundreds of communities over the decades; and

WHEREAS, YouthBuild USA is a non-profit organization that provides education, counseling and job skills to unemployed young adults between ages 16 and 24; there are 273 YouthBuild programs in 46 states, Washington, DC, and the Virgin Islands, engaging approximately 10,000 young adults per year; and

WHEREAS, In YouthBuild programs, young people ages 16 to 24 work full-time for 6 to 24 months toward their general equivalency or high school diplomas while learning job skills by building affordable housing in

their communities; when they have completed the program, participants are placed in college, jobs, or both; and

WHEREAS, More than an education and employment program, YouthBuild USA emphasizes leadership development, community service, and the creation of a positive community of adults and youth committed to each other's success; as such, this bold organization plays an invaluable role in improving the quality of life of all the communities it serves; and

WHEREAS, The strength of YouthBuild USA's exemplary model is evidenced by its international reach; non-governmental organizations and governments are choosing YouthBuild as the most appropriate program to address the difficult realities for youth in their countries; and

WHEREAS, YouthBuild USA's 35th Anniversary event presents an opportunity to not only celebrate its extraordinary achievement, but to enlist the input and energy of key partners to help set the course for this illustrious organization's next productive decade; and

WHEREAS, In so effectively carrying out its mission, YouthBuild USA has demonstrated the value of investing in our Nation's greatest resource, our youth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of YouthBuild USA; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to YouthBuild USA.