

2013-J4043

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Claity P. Massey upon the occasion of her retirement after many distinguished years as an educator

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals of remarkable integrity and character whose endeavors have enhanced the quality of education in this great State; and

WHEREAS, The result of many individual efforts, the excellence and the success of King Center Charter School is due in large part to the efforts of Dr. Claity P. Massey; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dr. Claity P. Massey upon the occasion of her retirement after many distinguished years as an educator; and

WHEREAS, King Center Charter School Founding Director, Dr. Claity P. Massey had a day of dedication in her honor; students and staff members all wore shirts bearing a picture of her face, and the Mayor of Buffalo, Byron Brown, paid her a visit in recognition of her retirement; and

WHEREAS, Known for her gentle, loving approach and tireless dedication to the students, Dr. Claity P. Massey always placed the education of children as her paramount concern; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Claity P. Massey is a Tennessee native who worked for 24 years as a Professor of Education at Houghton College; she left Houghton in the late 1990s to work with children at the King Urban Life Center on Buffalo's East Side; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, she became the Founding Director of King Center Charter School, Buffalo's first Charter School; and

WHEREAS, King Center Charter School has now expanded from an original 80 students K-3rd grade to 260 students K-6th grade, with plans to further expand to the 8th grade in the next couple years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Claity P. Massey managed to turn around the school after low test scores almost closed the school; changes included a longer school day and a six-week summer program; and

WHEREAS, Under her leadership, King Center Charter School has many distinguishable features including all classrooms are required to have two certified teachers, one full-time staff, and one teacher from AmeriCorps who has worked for two years; today, the School has been deemed one of the best in New York State, with above average test scores now on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Claity P. Massey has continually demonstrated an impressive dedication, an unparalleled devotion and an unremitting enthusiasm for the quality of the educational programs and opportunities offered at King Center Charter School for the benefit of its faculty and students, as well as for the entire community; and

WHEREAS, In retirement, Dr. Claity P. Massey plans on traveling to see her two daughters in New Mexico and North Carolina, as well as devoting more time to her volunteer interests; and

WHEREAS, In completing her service, Dr. Claity P. Massey leaves behind more than mere bricks and mortar; she leaves behind a legacy to the residents of Buffalo and to future generations of its students; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Dr. Claity P. Massey upon the occasion of her retirement, and for her significant contributions to education in New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Claity P. Massey.