

2013-J4643

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Kaitlin Hawayek of East Aurora, New York, and her partner Jean-Luc Baker of Edmonds, Washington, upon the occasion of capturing the Gold Medal in Ice Dance at the International Skating Union World Junior Figure Skating Championships

WHEREAS, Excellence and success in competitive sports can be achieved only through strenuous practice, team play and team spirit, nurtured by dedicated coaching and strategic planning; and

WHEREAS, Athletic competition enhances the moral and physical development of the young people of this State, preparing them for the future by instilling in them the value of teamwork, encouraging a standard of healthy living, imparting a desire for success and developing a sense of fair play and competition; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Kaitlin Hawayek of East Aurora, New York, and her partner Jean-Luc Baker of Edmonds, Washington, upon the occasion of capturing the Gold Medal in Ice Dance at the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria on Friday, March 14, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker competed against 179 of the best junior ice skaters from across the world to take the top prize at the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships; in an outstanding performance, they upset the defending Grand Prix champions in the short dance round, and held off a strong challenge in free dance to win first place; and

WHEREAS, Using intricate footwork and athleticism, as well as difficult lifts and spins, this remarkable pairing was the only team to collect four out of five elements, winning the event with a personal best score of 157.12; and

WHEREAS, Kaitlin Hawayek, the daughter of Jon and Kirstin Hawayek, has

been skating since she was four years-old; she has dedicated her life to training to be the best in her sport, spending countless hours practicing ballet, ballroom dancing, yoga, and other forms of strength and conditioning; and

WHEREAS, On their way to winning the Championship, Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker consistently displayed their hard work and commitment, winning the Silver Medal at the ISU Junior Grand Prix Final, and posting the highest placement for a team from the United States in five years; in addition, they won the title of United States Junior Dance Champions in January 2014; and

WHEREAS, Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker were loyally and enthusiastically supported by family, fans, friends and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, Sports competition instills the values of teamwork, pride and accomplishment, and Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker have clearly shown a spirit of excellence which is a hallmark of their team; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Kaitlin Hawayek and her partner Jean-Luc Baker upon the occasion of capturing the Gold Medal in Ice Dance at the International Skating Union World Junior Figure Skating Championships; and be it further RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker.