

2013-K1114

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION urging the New York State Congressional delegation to remove the penalty associated with being a married individual with a disability receiving supplemental security income benefits

WHEREAS, In the past, individuals with disabilities were not expected to fully participate as equal members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, In the past, individuals with disabilities were not perceived as capable of developing loving relationships with others; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with disabilities have the same need as people without disabilities to develop and maintain permanent loving relationships; and

WHEREAS, Many individuals with disabilities hold religious and moral beliefs that preclude them from living together as husband and wife without being married; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with disabilities want to marry and live as full members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with disabilities often depend on supplemental security income from federal social security and other governmental benefits for meeting their basic living requirements; and

WHEREAS, Social security law places strict limits on the amount of resources that individuals with disabilities are allowed to hold; and

WHEREAS, When two individuals with disabilities, each receiving supplemental security income get married, social security laws require that one of those individuals receive a reduced supplemental security income benefit as a marriage penalty; and

WHEREAS, Two unmarried individuals with disabilities living in the same residence each receive the full federal benefit rate; and

WHEREAS, Of the three major public income assistance programs, temporary assistance for needy families, food stamps and supplemental securi-

ty income, supplemental security income is the only one to use marital status in determining the amount of an individual's benefit; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the New York State Congressional delegation be and hereby is respectfully memorialized by this Legislative Body to remove the penalty associated with being a married individual with a disability receiving supplemental security income benefits; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to each member of the Congressional delegation from the State of New York.