

## 2013-K1264

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the William F. Ryan Community Health Network upon the occasion of its 47th Anniversary Gala on June 11, 2014

WHEREAS, The quality and character of life in this Nation, and the great State of New York, is reflective of the purposeful lives and good works of those compassionate and civic-minded community members who dedicate their lives and careers to the service of others; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the William F. Ryan Community Health Network upon the occasion of its 47th Anniversary Gala, to be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, at Guastavino's Restaurant in Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, At this auspicious event, the William F. Ryan Community Health Network will honor Kenneth L. Davis, MD, CEO and President of Mount Sinai Health System; Direct Relief International; and Rosie Perez, actor, author, and community activist; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the William F. Ryan Community Health Network will pay tribute to its President and CEO Barbra E. Minch, who will be retiring after 35 years of dedicated service; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the William F. Ryan Community Health Network is to provide medically uninsured and underserved children, families, adults and seniors in New York City with quality comprehensive health care; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1967 as a federally-funded, single-site demonstration project in Northern Manhattan, this worthy organization now operates 17 accessible sites, including William F. Ryan Community Health Center, which serves Manhattan's Upper West Side, Central Harlem and Washington Heights; the Ryan-NENA Community Health Center on the Lower East Side; the Ryan/Chelsea-Clinton Community Health Center, which

serves the midtown area, and the Thelma C. Davidson Adair, William F. Ryan Community Health Center in Central Harlem; and

WHEREAS, Other sites include a Women and Children's Center, six school-based health clinics, four transitional shelters and one mental health rehabilitation center; the organization also operates a fully-equipped medical van; and

WHEREAS, The William F. Ryan Community Health Network carries on the tradition of advocacy on behalf of medically underserved patients begun by the late Congressman, William F. Ryan, who first stated, "health care is a right, not a privilege," and was instrumental in the organization's development, and in the national Community Health Center movement; and

WHEREAS, The William F. Ryan Community Health Network currently serves over 50,000 patients with over 250,000 annual visits throughout New York City; over the past year there has been a substantial increase in the number of uninsured individuals, making the Network's work all the more essential to community well-being; and

WHEREAS, This vital health network has flourished under the sparkling leadership of Barbra E. Minch, who joined the William F. Ryan Community Health Center as an administrator, became Deputy Director and in 1995, was appointed Executive Director by the Board of Directors; in 2001, she was appointed President and CEO; and

WHEREAS, Barbra Minch has been the First Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS) and is an active member of the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC); she also is a member of the Health Care Executive Forum, and served on the Board of Trustees of the Job Security Fund of the 1199/SEIU Employment Training and Job Security Program; this accomplished woman played an integral role in helping to establish the

Coalition to Preserve Access to Community-Based Health Care Providers, which set the stage for direct funding to Community Health Centers in New York State; much lauded for her excellent work and dedication in the

Community Health Center movement, Barbra E. Minch was inducted into the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when organizations and individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention it is appropriate to publicly proclaim and commend those organizations for the edification and emulation of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the William F. Ryan Community Health Network upon the occasion of its 47th Anniversary Gala; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the William F. Ryan Community Health Network, and Barbra E. Minch.