

## 2015-J816

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Kathy Bates for her outstanding advocacy, support, and fundraising efforts for lymphedema awareness

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of organizations and individuals committed to helping to improve the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding tradition, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Kathy Bates for her outstanding advocacy, support, and fundraising efforts for lymphedema awareness, in conjunction with the observance of National Lymphedema Awareness Day on March 6, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Bates, an Academy Award-winning, Emmy Award-winning and Tony nominated actress, has used her celebrity status to promote lymphedema awareness; and

WHEREAS, Having developed lymphedema in both arms, following a double mastectomy, Kathy Bates now serves as Honorary Board Chairperson of the Lymphatic Education & Research Network, also known as LE&RN; and

WHEREAS, As the first celebrity to come forward with this disease, Kathy Bates initiated The Face of Lymphedema Challenge to the mass of supporters attending LE&RN's 2014 Walk for Lymphedema and Lymphatic Diseases across the Brooklyn Bridge; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Bates has empowered others with this disease to follow her example and publicly come forward to say they too have lymphedema; and

WHEREAS, National Lymphedema Awareness Day brings awareness to this often debilitating condition and helps find strength through collective celebration, and is also set aside to honor inspirational lymphedema patients and advocates; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Bates has broken the silence among lymphedema sufferers and brought this disease to a statewide and national audience by becoming a lymphedema spokesperson without regard for professional career concerns; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Bates has dedicated herself to lymphedema awareness by chairing LE&RN's Honorary Board and by soliciting the support of others to use their celebrity to further lymphatic and lymphedema research and awareness; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Bates has committed herself to making lymphedema her cause on nationally televised broadcasts, such as her recent appearance on "The Doctors", which is bringing unprecedented awareness to the disease; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Bates has made New York-based Lymphatic Education & Research Network her charity of choice to benefit from these nationally broadcast television appearances; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Bates continues to seek ways to champion the needs of the lymphedema community, which suffers a shortage of certified therapists and lacks sufficient insurance coverage for even basic lymphedema treatment options; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Bates has dedicated herself to continuing her staunch lymphedema advocacy as a life-long commitment; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Kathy Bates for her outstanding advocacy and promotion of lymphedema awareness; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Kathy Bates, and to the Lymphatic Education & Research

Network.