

2015-J5729

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dennis P. Whalen upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Distinguished Service Award by the Healthcare Association of New York State

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dennis P. Whalen upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Distinguished Service Award by the Healthcare Association of New York State to be celebrated at its Annual Membership Conference on Thursday, June 23, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Dennis P. Whalen reportedly first worked for the New York State Health Department in the summer of 1971, mowing the lawn; and
WHEREAS, Later in his career, Dennis P. Whalen was often acknowledged to be "the adult in the room"; and

WHEREAS, A respected healthcare leader, Dennis P. Whalen has been an unwavering advocate for improving healthcare in New York State for more than four decades, holding key leadership positions in state government, with six governors of both political parties, in positions of increasing responsibility; he has served as President of HANYS since 2013, and will retire in July of this year; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his illustrious career, Dennis P. Whalen has established a reputation for his knowledge, credibility, and capacity to reconcile conflict and achieve consensus on complex health policy issues; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, while at the Department of Health during the 1990s, Dennis P. Whalen was an advisor on the deregulation of hospital rate-setting, negotiating and implementing changes to a system that had been in place in New York State for more than 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Dennis P. Whalen was the senior state official for the Berger Commission, developing and implementing the Commission's recommenda-

tions, targeting substantial funds for improvements in the operation and efficiency of healthcare delivery; and

WHEREAS, Dennis P. Whalen is widely known as a "healthcare guru" due to his extensive knowledge in not only developing healthcare policy, but also successfully implementing it in the real world; much of that experience comes from his work in state government, including serving as Director of State Operations, where he oversaw all 78 Executive Branch agencies, directed the Governor's policymaking staff of deputy secretaries, and advised the Governor on all state operational matters; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed man has also served as Deputy Secretary for Health and Human Services, and for a decade he served as Executive Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, With a longstanding dedication to AIDS activism, Dennis P. Whalen previously served as Director of the Office of Health Systems Management and Director of the New York State AIDS Institute; and

WHEREAS, At HANYS, Dennis P. Whalen has played a critical role in advising the healthcare field on issues including the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP), the most significant restructuring of Medicaid payments since the deregulation of rates in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Dennis P. Whalen has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades for his superlative work, including New York State Distinguished Service Awards from the State University of New York School of Public Health, and from the Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Dennis P. Whalen has been a key figure in the most important healthcare policy issues over the past 40 years, conducting himself with professionalism and civility, and delivering results that have made a positive difference in the lives of all New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his sterling professional career, those closest to Dennis P. Whalen know him as a man who puts family first; he also has a true passion for music and has played in several bands; now,

therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dennis P. Whalen upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Distinguished Service Award by the Healthcare Association of New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dennis P. Whalen.