

## 2017-J5461

Senate Resolution No. 5461

BY: Senator BRESLIN

HONORING Keith Brown upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Catholic Charities Care Coordination Services on June 7, 2018

WHEREAS, The unity of our State and Nation is built upon the compassion of individuals such as Keith Brown who uphold the values of community life and who, through their great actions, epitomize the best of humanity; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Keith Brown upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Catholic Charities Care Coordination Services, to be celebrated at its 2nd Annual Garden Party on Thursday, June 7, 2018, at the Walter Street Garden, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Director of Health and Harm Reduction for the Katal Center for Health, Equity and Justice, Keith Brown is being recognized for his innovation and commitment to the mission of Catholic Charities Care Coordination Services; and

WHEREAS, Keith Brown began his illustrious career with the Katal Center for Health, Equity and Justice in May of 2016 as Project Director of the Albany Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) initiative in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, In this capacity, Keith Brown serves as an expert in Medicaid, health, case management, and harm reduction, assisting municipalities through the country in developing strategies addressing public health and public safety; and

WHEREAS, Keith Brown has more than 15 years of experience working to improve the lives of people living with HIV, people who use drugs, and people at-risk, in both Western New York and the Capital Region; and

WHEREAS, An expert in opioid use, addiction, and overdose prevention, Keith Brown has advised lawmakers, law enforcement, community groups and healthcare providers in effective methods to address the overdose crisis; and

WHEREAS, Prior to joining Katal, Keith Brown worked for 13 years at the Albany-based Catholic Charities Care Coordination Services, serving eight of those years as Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, Under the able leadership of Keith Brown, the multi-faceted agency provided direct services to individuals impacted by HIV and other chronic illnesses, and prevention services for communities and individuals at-risk for HIV, Hepatitis C, and other conditions; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, this extraordinary man developed and implemented the first Syringe Exchange Program in New York's Capital Region to respond to the needs of people who use drugs in the community; and

WHEREAS, That program, Project Safe Point, has since grown to include other services such as opiate overdose prevention, harm reduction counseling and referral, and HIV/Hepatitis C screening; and

WHEREAS, On the leading edge of Medicaid redesign, Keith Brown has

been intricately involved in New York State's Health Homes and Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program (DSRIP), serving previously as a project co-Chair and member of several executive committees; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, Keith Brown worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and New York State Department of Health to develop a research study on Hepatitis C risk behaviors among injection drug users; and

WHEREAS, Three years later, Keith Brown and a small group of partners were invited to participate in a White House sponsored convening of stakeholders and professionals to discuss Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Programs as a means to reform the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, Today, Keith Brown remains committed to fighting for access to treatment and services for individuals living with HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and other chronic illnesses, people who use drugs, people engaged in sex work, and other marginalized populations; and

WHEREAS, Keith Brown's expertise and technical assistance in chronic disease management and harm reduction has been sought by various groups and organizations wishing to implement or develop similar services; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society, Keith Brown is a member of Albany County's Opioid Task Force and sits on the Board of the Albany County Coalition on Homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Keith Brown holds a Master's degree in Public Health from SUNY Albany and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Community Mental Health from SUNY Buffalo; he is also a member of the Alpha Gamma Chapter of the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Keith Brown upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Catholic Charities Care Coordination Services on June 7, 2018; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Keith Brown.