

**A PROCLAMATION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATORS GRANT, MAZUR, MILLS, HOGUES, MARINELLI,
HARDWICK, LOUGHRAN, RATH, McCracken, DIXON & LORIGO**

RE: Congratulating Veronica Federiconi on the 10th Anniversary of Arts Work at Autistic Services and in Recognition of April as Autism Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Veronica Federiconi is CEO of Autistic Services, an organization that provides programming, advocacy and support services for individuals with autism and their families; and

WHEREAS, autism is a complex developmental disability that usually appears during the first three years of life and affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it is now estimated that "one in every 88 children is diagnosed with autism;" and

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorders including Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD), including those not otherwise specified, Asperger's Syndrome, Rett Syndrome and Childhood Disintegrative Disorder; and

WHEREAS, Veronica has shown tremendous foresight and leadership in creating Arts Work, an innovative program that gives people with autism an opportunity to participate in the visual and performing arts; and

WHEREAS, Arts Work gives children and adults with autism a voice, enriching their lives and the lives of their families by providing services that previously were not available to autistic individuals; and

WHEREAS, Veronica's commitment to sharing the work of autistic artists with the larger community helps to dispel myths about autistic individuals and fosters an environment of inclusion and acceptance within the local arts community; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper for the Erie County Legislature to pay tribute to Veronica Federiconi for her influence, passion, commitment and person-centered philosophy, which extends well beyond the autistic community; and

WHEREAS, a number of works of art by the artists of Arts Work are on loan and prominently displayed on the walls of the Erie County Legislature's offices in Old County Hall, 92 Franklin Street in Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, Veronica's creative leadership serves as an example and inspiration to other agencies and service providers; as well as a vehicle to raise awareness and educate others about autism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature convey the appreciation of the citizens of Erie County to Veronica Federiconi for creating the Arts Work Program at Autistic Services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Veronica Federiconi in recognition of the month of April as Autism Awareness Month and upon the auspicious occasion of the 10th Anniversary of Arts Work.