

State of New Jersey

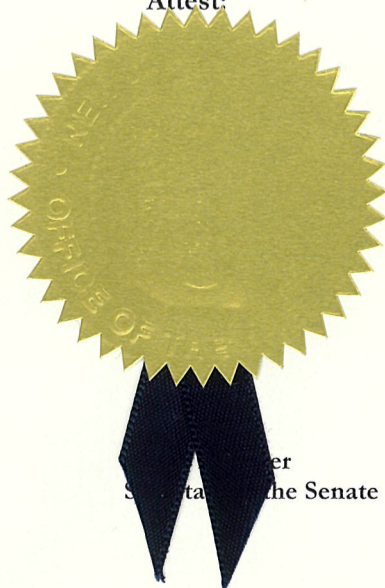


THE SENATE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N.J.

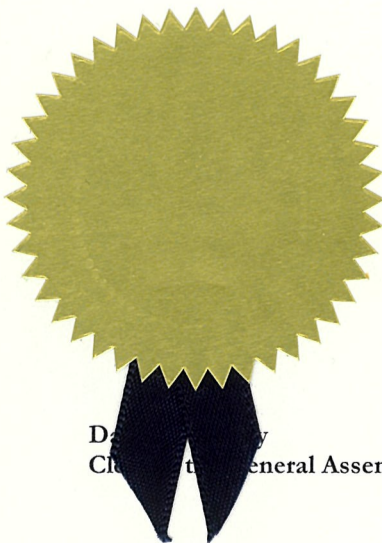
JOINT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION By Senator GREENSTEIN and Assemblymen DEANGELO and BENSON

- WHEREAS**, The Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey are pleased to acknowledge Bonnie Kerness, a highly esteemed resident of the Garden State, in recognition of a superb fifty-year tenure with the American Friends Service Committee; and,
- WHEREAS**, Bonnie Kerness serves with distinction as Director of the American Friends Service Committee's Prison Watch Program, a consequential post that has demonstrated her unwavering commitment to raise awareness of the human rights violations that occur daily throughout the United States prison system; and,
- WHEREAS**, An activist since the age of fourteen when she began volunteering at New York University's Settlement House, Bonnie Kerness trained with the NAACP and the Highlander Center in Tennessee before joining forces with the American Friends Service Committee in 1971 in Elizabeth, eventually sharing her considerable expertise in its Newark Justice Program, and then as advisor to California Prison Focus, Critical Resistance, and SolitaryWatch; and,
- WHEREAS**, Steadfast in her support of imprisoned women, Bonnie Kerness has worked with each New Jersey Commissioner of Corrections, has testified at parole board annual meetings and for this Legislature, and, as a result of working with those incarcerated at Edna Mahon Correctional Facility, has published the nationally acclaimed *From Her Mouth to Your Ears*; and,
- WHEREAS**, Now an invaluable member of the Women Board of Trustees at Edna Mahan, Bonnie Kerness will continue to give voice to the voiceless as she brings her vast experience to address the work that lies ahead; and,
- WHEREAS**, Within all the spheres of her life and work, Bonnie Kerness has established a model to emulate and set a standard of excellence toward which all others might strive; and,
- WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and right for the members of this Legislature to pause in their deliberations to commend Bonnie Kerness as an individual of remarkable character and boundless determination; now, therefore,
Be It Resolved by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:
That this Legislature hereby salutes Bonnie Kerness, pays tribute to her meritorious record of service, leadership, and commitment, and extends sincere best wishes for continued success in all her future endeavors; and,
Be It Further Resolved, That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the Senate President and the Assembly Speaker and attested by the Senate Secretary and the Assembly Clerk, be transmitted to Bonnie Kerness.

Attest:



Secretary of the Senate



Clerk of the General Assembly

Nicholas P. Scutari
President of the Senate

Craig J. Coughlin
Speaker of the General Assembly