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5 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION  
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9 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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14 To recognize Mary's Center on its 30th anniversary of service to the Ward 1 and District  
15 community, and to recognize Founder, President, and CEO Maria S. Gomez for her role in  
16 building Mary's Center into a visionary institution.

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18 WHEREAS, Maria S. Gomez was born in Colombia and immigrated to the United States  
19 with her mother at age 13;

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21 WHEREAS, Ms. Gomez attended DC Public Schools and earned degrees in Nursing and  
22 Public Health from Georgetown University and the University of California, Berkeley;

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24 WHEREAS, Ms. Gomez worked as a nurse with the DC Department of Health when she  
25 witnessed a large increase in the number of Latin American women who required maternal  
26 healthcare after migrating to the United States to escape dangerous conditions in their home  
27 countries;

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29 WHEREAS, Ms. Gomez and healthcare advocates founded Mary's Center in 1988 to  
30 better meet the needs of mothers;

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32 WHEREAS, Mary's Center originally operated out of a basement clinic on Columbia  
33 Road, N.W. in Ward 1 before moving to its current headquarters at 2333 Ontario Road, N.W.;

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35 WHEREAS, since its founding in 1988, Mary's Center has grown from serving 200  
36 women annually to providing health care, family literacy, and social services to 50,000 men,  
37 women, and children from 50 different countries at 8 locations each year;

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39 WHEREAS, Mary's Center has committed to a social change model centered around the  
40 provision of integrated healthcare, social services, and education—regardless of participants'  
41 ability to pay;

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43 WHEREAS, Mary's Center serves as an invaluable resource for the neighborhood  
44 surrounding its headquarters in Ward 1 and the healthcare system of the entire Washington  
45 metropolitan area;

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47 WHEREAS, Ms. Gomez's hard work and dedication led First Lady Michelle Obama to  
48 choose Mary's Center as the site of her first official visit to a non-profit organization in February  
49 2009;

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51 WHEREAS, Ms. Gomez currently serves as a board member of the DC Primary Care  
52 Association, the Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County, the Meyer Foundation, and the  
53 Washington Area Women's Foundation;

54 WHEREAS, Ms. Gomez has been frequently recognized by the Mayor and the Council  
55 for her work in strengthening the District's health care system;

56 WHEREAS, 2018 marks 30 years of Mary's Center's contributions to the community  
57 with Founder, President, and CEO Maria S. Gomez at the helm;

58 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this  
59 resolution may be cited as the "Maria S. Gomez and Mary's Center Recognition Resolution of  
60 2018".

61 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes Mary's Center for its  
62 accomplishments over 30 years of transformative work and honors Maria S. Gomez for her  
63 important leadership in advancing the health and well-being of mothers and the District's  
64 immigrant community.

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66 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in  
67 the District of Columbia Register.