

2013-J2563

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 4, 2013, as PKD Awareness Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are set aside to increase awareness of serious issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim Wednesday, September 4, 2013, as PKD Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with National PKD Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) affects an estimated 600,000 Americans and 12.5 million newborns, children and adults worldwide; in New York State, there are approximately 38,500 people with PKD; and

WHEREAS, It is one of the most common, life-threatening, genetic diseases; and

WHEREAS, Specifically, people who are affected by PKD develop cysts on their kidneys; the cysts on the kidneys grow and, eventually, the kidneys are unable to perform their life-preserving role of filtering metabolic wastes; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 50% of people with PKD will experience kidney failure, requiring them to have either dialysis or a kidney transplant to stay alive; these two options are the only treatment as there is no cure for this horrific disease; and

WHEREAS, Both genes for PKD have been discovered and clinical trials are underway to develop medicines to, hopefully, slow down cyst development on the kidneys and, by so doing, preserve kidney function; and

WHEREAS, Even with the passage of the Genetic Information Non-Discrimi-

mination Act (GINA), many people with PKD are afraid to reveal their diagnosis for fear of insurance or employment discrimination; thus, many people do not know about PKD and, because of that lack of knowledge, support for a cure becomes more challenging; and

WHEREAS, The PKD Foundation is the only organization, worldwide, dedicated to fighting Polycystic Kidney Disease; its mission is to promote programs of research, advocacy, education, support and awareness in order to discover treatments and a cure for this critical disease and improve the lives of all the people it affects; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the efforts of all those who raise funds and promote awareness to fight PKD, thereby improving the quality of life for those living with Polycystic Kidney Disease; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 4, 2013, as PKD Awareness Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.