

## 2013-K681

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2013 Recovery Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Recovery Month promotes the societal benefits of prevention, treatment, and recovery for mental and substance use disorders, celebrates people in recovery, lauds the contributions of treatment and service providers, and promotes the message that recovery in all its forms is possible; Recovery Month spreads the positive message that behavioral health is essential to overall health, that prevention works, treatment is effective and people can and do recover; and

WHEREAS, September 2013 marks the 24th observance of National Recovery Month and the second observance of Recovery Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, The observance celebrates people in recovery and lauds the work of treatment providers, while emphasizing that behavioral health is an essential part of health and one's overall wellness; additionally, Recovery Month exemplifies that all individuals have the fundamental and inherent value to be accepted and treated with respect, dignity, and worth and is designed to help people understand that treatment for mental and substance use disorders is effective and people do recover; and

WHEREAS, According to the 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in 2011, an estimated 22.5 million Americans aged 12 or older were current (past month) illicit drug users, meaning they has used an illicit drug during the month prior to the survey interview; and

WHEREAS, This estimate represents 8.7 percent of the population aged 12 or older; and the WHEREAS, Illicit drugs include marijuana/hashish,

cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or prescriptive-type psychotherapeutics (pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives) used nonmedically; and

WHEREAS, Recovery Month helps to highlight the numerous paths to recovery and the wide range of services available to people living with mental and substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, Recovery Month supports many of SAMHSA's Strategic Initiatives, particularly the goals of increasing public awareness of mental and substance use disorders, health reform implementation, and offering recovery support through an individual, program, and system approach; and

WHEREAS, Coordinated by SAMHSA, the 2013 Recovery Month observance emphasizes the many ways that people can prevent behavioral health issues, seek treatment, and sustain recovery as part of a commitment to living a mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually healthy life; and

WHEREAS, Each event seeks to unite a range of stakeholders in taking action, including individuals in the recovery community and their families and friends; policymakers and community leaders; judges; insurers; health professionals; treatment providers; educators/schools; community-based and faith-based organizations; the criminal justice system; diverse racial, ethnic and cultural groups; and members of the media; and

WHEREAS, Recovery from substance abuse and mental disorders touches nearly everyone and every community; and

WHEREAS, Sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Recovery Month inspires millions of people to become better

educated about recovery; it also encourages individuals to share their stories of recovery and assist others who are struggling with substance use and mental disorders; and

WHEREAS, The observance of Recovery Month helps to emphasize the importance of educating policymakers, health care providers, employers, and the general public about the role of treatment and recovery support services; and

WHEREAS, Recovery Month is also a reason for people to celebrate; it honors the millions of people who have sought or are currently seeking treatment and recovery services for substance use and mental disorders for themselves or a loved one; and

WHEREAS, Recovery Month educates New Yorkers about the fact that addiction treatment and mental health services can enable those with a mental and/or substance use disorder to live a healthy and rewarding life and lauds the gains made by those in recovery from these conditions, just as we would commend those who are managing other health conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, asthma, and heart disease; and

WHEREAS, Recovery Month, in addition, spreads the positive message that behavioral health is essential to overall health, prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover; and

WHEREAS, Recovery Month highlights individuals who have reclaimed their lives and are living happy and healthy lives in long-term recovery and also honors the prevention, treatment, and recovery service providers who make recovery possible; and

WHEREAS, Recovery Month promotes the message that recovery in all its forms is possible and also encourages citizens to take action to help expand and improve the availability of effective prevention, treatment, and recovery services for those in need; and

WHEREAS, The observance of Recovery Month emphasizes that while the road to recovery may be difficult, the benefits of preventing and overcoming behavioral health conditions are significant and valuable to individuals, families, and communities; it has become a year-round initiative which supports educational outreach and celebratory events throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, Recovery Month promotes the societal benefits of prevention, treatment, and recovery for substance use and mental disorders, celebrates people in recovery, lauds the contributions of treatment and service providers, and promotes the message that recovery in all its forms is possible and spreads the positive message that behavioral

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health is essential to overall health, that prevention works, treatment is effective and people can and do recover; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, to proclaim September 2013 as Recovery Month 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.