

2013-J582

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2013 as Suicide Prevention Month in New York State

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2013 as Suicide Prevention Month in New York State, in conjunction with the observance of World Suicide Prevention Day that is recognized internationally and supported by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, Suicide is the 10th leading cause of all deaths in the United States, the third leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 15 to 24, and the second leading cause of death among college students; and

WHEREAS, Twenty percent of those who die by suicide are active or retired members of the military; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, one person completes suicide every 14.2 minutes; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that 4.6 million people in the United States are survivors of suicide (those who have lost a loved one to suicide); and

WHEREAS, 50.2 percent of people who die by suicide use a firearm, and guns stored in the house are used for suicide 40 times more often than for self-protection; and

WHEREAS, The stigma surrounding suicide and mental illness too often impede an individual's ability to seek treatment, share their personal story, grieve appropriately for the loss of a loved one, and move through a journey of healing and recovery; and

WHEREAS, A great many suicides are preventable; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of advocates, caregivers, consumers and professionals work tirelessly to raise awareness, reduce stigma, educate New

Yorkers and influence public policy such that mental health services are readily available and accessible, and the state's capacity to prevent the tragedy of suicide among its populous is strengthened; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2013 as Suicide Prevention Month in New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, and the New York State Chapters of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.