

2013-J2802

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 10, 2014, as Neuroendocrine Tumor Cancer Awareness Day

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

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 10, 2014, as Neuroendocrine Tumor Cancer Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, Neuroendocrine cells, located throughout the body, produce hormones used for a variety of important functions, such as regulating air and blood flow through the lungs and the production of adrenaline in the adrenal glands; and

WHEREAS, Neuroendocrine tumor (NET) cancer occurs when these neuroendocrine cells grow uncontrollably into malignant tumors, disrupting the cells' important functions, and causing a wide variety of serious symptoms including recurrent lung infections, wheezing, abdominal pain, heart palpitations, heartburn, skin rashes, anxiety attacks, and sometimes death; and

WHEREAS, NET cancer most often originates in the lung or gastrointestinal system but can also begin in other organs, such as the pancreas, kidneys, ovaries, testes, or thyroid gland; and

WHEREAS, Even though thousands of Americans suffer from NET cancer, mistakes in diagnosis and caring for those suffering are far too common due to a lack of knowledge in the medical community about the disease; and

WHEREAS, Over 90 percent of NET cancer patients are incorrectly diagnosed and initially treated for the wrong disease; and

WHEREAS, Misdiagnoses and delayed diagnoses mean that NET cancer patients are treated for the wrong disease, on average, for five to seven years, by which point the cancer has often spread, making survival less likely; and

WHEREAS, Despite the fact that the majority of neuroendocrine tumors are cancerous, healthcare professionals often believe they are not cancerous, are unlikely to cause serious harm, and underestimate the tumor's ability to spread to other parts of the body, further decreasing the patient's likelihood of survival; and

WHEREAS, Despite the well-publicized illness and death of Steve Jobs, who succumbed to a form of NET cancer, knowledge of the disease is too limited both within the medical community and among the general public; and

WHEREAS, Greater awareness and knowledge of NET cancer both in the medical and lay communities would substantially benefit those affected by helping to generate the funding for further research to improve treatments, and ultimately save more lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 10, 2014, as Neuroendocrine Tumor Cancer Awareness Day; 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.