

2013-J3381

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2014 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months 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 in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2014 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second most common cause of cancer deaths for men and women in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer affects men and women equally; and

WHEREAS, Every three minutes, someone is diagnosed with colorectal cancer and every 10 minutes someone dies from colorectal cancer; and

WHEREAS, The vast majority of colon cancer deaths can be prevented through proper screening and early detection; and

WHEREAS, Only 39 percent of colorectal cancer patients have their cancers detected at an early stage; and

WHEREAS, The survival rate of individuals who have early stage colorectal cancer is 90 percent but is only 10 percent when diagnosed after it has spread to other organs; and

WHEREAS, If the majority of people in the United States age 50 or older were screened regularly for colorectal cancer, the death rate from this disease could plummet by up to 70 percent; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, American Indians, and Alaskan Natives are significantly less likely to be

screened for colorectal cancer compared to Whites; and

WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable and beatable in most cases; and

WHEREAS, Observing a Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month during the month of March would provide a special opportunity to offer education on the importance of early detection and screening; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious health issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and national levels to support the patients as well as their families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2014 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness 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.