

2013-J3650

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating March 2014, as the Fifth Annual New York State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health Month

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and applaud those cultural events within the State of New York which serve to celebrate diversity, and in doing so, help to enfranchise all populations within the larger community of humanity; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate March 2014, as the Fifth Annual New York Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health Month; this year's theme is "Access to Care"; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Health and Human Services Network ("the Network") is a coalition of more than 50 nonprofit groups and organizations that provide health and social services to LGBT New Yorkers and their families; and

WHEREAS, The Network members provide: health and wellness programs including primary and preventative health care; social support and education; mental health treatment and family counseling; domestic violence and sexual assault services; crime victim assistance; homeless youth services; and alcohol and substance abuse prevention; and

WHEREAS, By focusing on non-HIV related health needs, Network members have worked diligently with New York State government to recognize the continuum of health care needs in the LGBT communities; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1994, the Network is supported and administered by the Empire State Pride Agenda Foundation and operates on a democratic, consensual basis through the participation of Network members in a variety of work plan teams; and

WHEREAS, New York LGBT Health Month will encourage LGBT New Yorkers and the organizations that serve them to educate, advocate, and organize

around LGBT health and wellness in all its forms - physical, sexual, spiritual, emotional, and social; and

WHEREAS, New York LGBT Health Month will raise a better understanding of LGBT health issues and the special health and social services needs that LGBT people have, including increased rates of smoking, breast cancer, substance abuse, HIV and sexually transmitted infections, and depression and suicide attempts; and

WHEREAS, LGBT New Yorkers have disproportionately inadequate health-care due to financial, cultural, and personal barriers; New York LGBT Health Month encourages local groups, agencies, and organizations to offer a full month of programs and events designed to educate, advocate, and build community around the theme of LGBT health with a focus on access to care, in particular for those to take advantage of new offerings by way of the Affordable Care Act and to with a lens on increased support for transgender and gender non-conforming New Yorkers seeking necessary transition-related care; and

WHEREAS, New York LGBT Health Month has an alternate goal to build community amongst LGBT people around New York State; and

WHEREAS, It is with great admiration that this Legislative Body recognizes the efforts of all of the noble individuals who have worked on behalf of New York LGBT Health Month, past and present, and wishes this exemplary coalition continued success in its vital work on behalf of the LGBT community it serves; and

WHEREAS, Our society is greatly benefited by the purposeful efforts of individuals who unite for the cause of improving the quality of life for others, and who proactively work toward the goal of dignity for all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate March 2014, as the Fifth Annual New York Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health Month; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to the New York State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health and Human Services Network.