

## 2013-J3665

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 2014 as Epilepsy 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 conditions 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 2014 as Epilepsy Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Epilepsy Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, Epilepsy, also known as a seizure disorder, is a medical condition that produces seizures affecting a variety of mental and physical functions; it is characterized by recurring seizures which are physical reactions to sudden, brief, excessive electrical discharges in brain cells; and

WHEREAS, Epilepsy affects more people than multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and Parkinson's combined; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that up to 50,000 deaths occur annually in the United States from status epilepticus (prolonged seizures), Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP), and other seizure-related causes such as drowning and other accidents; and

WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, epilepsy affects 3 million Americans, and 65 million people worldwide; more people live with epilepsy than with autism spectrum disorders, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis and cerebral palsy combined; and

WHEREAS, It strikes most often among the very young and the very old, although anyone can develop epilepsy at any age; in the United States,

it affects more than 300,000 children under the age of 15, more than 90,000 of whom have seizures that cannot be adequately treated; and WHEREAS, The number of epilepsy cases in the elderly is climbing as the baby boom generation reaches retirement age; more than 570,000 adults age 65 and above have the condition; and WHEREAS, Each year, there are 200,000 new cases of epilepsy reported in the United States, and approximately 50,000 people will die from an epilepsy-related cause; and WHEREAS, While medications and other treatments help many people of all ages who live with epilepsy, more than a million people continue to have seizures that can severely limit their school achievements, employment prospects and participation in all of life's experiences; and WHEREAS, Despite its prevalence, epilepsy is among the least understood of major chronic medical conditions, even though one in three adults knows someone with the disorder; and WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious health condition, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and national levels; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 2014 as Epilepsy Awareness Month in the State of New York; 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 Epilepsy Foundation.