

2013-J3694

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2014 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The health and well-being of the citizens of the State of New York is of paramount importance to this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, The occurrence of Lyme Disease in New York State is high; from 2003 to 2012, New York had the second highest number of total reported cases of Lyme Disease in the United States, 25 percent higher than New Jersey, the state with the third-highest number of total reported cases; and

WHEREAS, Lyme Disease is a common but frequently misunderstood illness that, if not caught early and treated properly, can cause serious health problems; and

WHEREAS, According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New York State Department of Health, Lyme Disease was identified and named in 1977, when arthritis was observed in a cluster of children in and around Lyme, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) designated Lyme Disease as a nationally notifiable disease in January of 1991; and

WHEREAS, Lyme Disease is the most common vector-borne disease in the United States; however this disease does not occur nationwide and is concentrated heavily in the Northeast and upper Midwest; it is caused by the tick-borne spirochete *Borrelia Burgdorferi*, which is transmitted to the human bloodstream by the bite of various species of ticks; and

WHEREAS, Children aged 5 to 9 and adults in their 50s and 60s experience the highest occurrence of Lyme Disease; and

WHEREAS, Lyme Disease can cause early symptoms such as rash and flu-

like symptoms such as fever, muscle aches, headaches, fatigue; and WHEREAS, Lyme Disease can be treated with antibiotics if caught early; the disease often goes undetected because it mimics other illnesses or may be misdiagnosed; untreated, Lyme Disease can lead to severe heart, neurological, eye, and joint problems because the bacteria can affect many different organs and organ systems; and

WHEREAS, The best protection against Lyme Disease is to wear light-colored clothing when outdoors and to check one's self carefully for ticks when going back inside; and

WHEREAS, Lyme Disease accounts for 90 percent of all vector-borne infections in the United States; the ticks that spread Lyme Disease also spread other diseases, such as ehrlichiosis, babesiosis, and other strains of Borrelia; all of these diseases in one patient makes diagnosis and treatment more difficult; and

WHEREAS, During 2012, a total of 30,000 cases of Lyme Disease were reported in the United States; the CDC indicates that the actual number of reported cases of Lyme Disease that meet the CDC criteria is 10 times the amount reported, bringing the actual number of cases that meet the CDC criteria to 300,000 for 2012; and

WHEREAS, Lyme Disease Month provides an opportunity to focus on this significant and complex disease, to provide information on and raise public awareness of its causes, effects and treatments, and to underscore important education and research efforts surrounding Lyme and tick-borne diseases; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2014 as Lyme Disease 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.