

2013-J3679

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2014 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Individuals with developmental disabilities live, work, and volunteer in every neighborhood of this great Empire State; they are family members, friends, neighbors, coworkers, teammates and classmates; and

WHEREAS, The communities of New York State are strongest when every resident is fully able to share their gifts and talents; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2014 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, In 1987 President Ronald Reagan first proclaimed the month of March "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month," and called upon Americans to provide the encouragement and opportunities necessary for people with developmental disabilities to reach their potential; and

WHEREAS, Despite the many positive changes in societal attitude, workplace and educational culture, health care, available resources, and knowledge concerning people with developmental disabilities, much remains to be done to address the prevalence of negative stereotypes, lingering misinformation, and subsequent discrimination and barriers some of these vulnerable citizens face; and

WHEREAS, During Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, New Yorkers are encouraged to recognize the abilities of all people, and to take time to get to know someone with a developmental disability; and

WHEREAS, It is crucial that individuals with developmental disabili-

ties have access to the resources that allow them to live secure, fulfilling lives, including education, housing, employment, and recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, Opportunities for citizens with developmental disabilities to live as independently and productively as possible must be fostered throughout New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2014 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Special Needs Alliance.