

2013-K872

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 2014, as 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 illnesses 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 February 2014, as Cancer Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that 109,000 New Yorkers will be diagnosed with cancer this year and about 34,000 will die from the disease; four cancers, lung, prostate, breast and colorectal, will account for half of all cancer diagnoses and nearly half of all cancer deaths in New York State; and

WHEREAS, Lung cancer is the single largest cancer killer with an estimated 8,790 deaths annually in the State; colorectal and pancreatic cancers are predicted to be the second and third most frequent causes of mortality; prostate cancer is New York's most common cancer; and

WHEREAS, Today, more people are being diagnosed with cancer but fewer than ever are dying from it; the number of deaths has declined by 20% in the last 23 years; research, interventions and public health laws passed by the federal government have led to this decline; and

WHEREAS, January 2014, marked the 50th Anniversary of Surgeon General Luther Terry's landmark report in 1964 linking cigarette smoking to cancer; and

WHEREAS, Our country's political and public health leadership can derive great satisfaction from the achievements which have followed from

a three-part strategy that has included raising taxes on tobacco products, banning smoking in restaurants, bars and many other public places, and increased funding for smoking cessation efforts; and

WHEREAS, Smoking rates declined from 42% in 1964 to 18% nationally and 16% in New York State; reductions in smoking have produced a 30 percent increase in life expectancy in the United States from 1964 to 2012; and

WHEREAS, These successes are a clear indication of what strong public leadership can accomplish; unfortunately, it is estimated that about 8,800 citizens of our state will die from lung cancer this year; smoking still accounts for 30% of all cancer deaths and 85% of all lung cancer deaths; and

WHEREAS, Public health organizations are working toward a goal of reducing nationwide smoking rates to 12% by 2020 and 10% in the next ten years; more efforts are needed to reach many sub-groups of the state's population including rural residents, lower income residents, and those with behavioral and substance abuse problems who continue to smoke at much higher rates; 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; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 2014, as Cancer Awareness Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, and the American Cancer Society.