

2013-J4076

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 2014 as Alpha-1 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 issues 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, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 2014 as Alpha-1 Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (Alpha-1) is one of the most common serious hereditary disorders in the world and can result in life-threatening liver disease in children and adults or in lung disease in adults; an estimated 100,000 children and adults in the United States have the severe deficiency; and

WHEREAS, Alpha-1 has been identified in virtually all populations; an estimated 25 million people in America carry a single deficient gene that causes Alpha-1 and may pass that particular gene on to their children; and

WHEREAS, Alpha-1 is widely underdiagnosed and misdiagnosed; fewer than 10% of those predicted to have Alpha-1 have been accurately diagnosed, and it often takes an average of five doctors and seven years from the time symptoms first appear before proper diagnosis is made; and

WHEREAS, Alpha-1 is easily detected using a simple test; it is the most common known genetic risk factor for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD); lung disease is the most frequent cause of disability and early death among affected persons and is a major reason for lung transplants; and

WHEREAS, Liver and lung transplants are sought by many individuals suffering from Alpha-1; detection screenings and educational conferences will help raise awareness for early identification and organ donation; and

WHEREAS, It is important to increase awareness of this serious hereditary and misdiagnosed disorder, as well as educate the public and medical community on Alpha-1 detection and treatment for those affected by this condition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 2014 as Alpha-1 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.