

2013-J4164

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2014 as Youth Sports Safety Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Youth Sports Safety Month

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in calling attention to awareness of serious injuries which affect many New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2014 as Youth Sports Safety Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Youth Sports Safety Month, calling particular attention to concussions and other brain injuries experienced by the youth of our great State; and

WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP), participation in organized sports is on the rise; nearly 30 million children and adolescents participate in youth sports in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Each year, hospital emergency rooms, nationwide, treat an estimated 173,285 sports and recreation-related traumatic brain injuries, including concussions, among children, birth-19; and

WHEREAS, Coaches of every school athletic team and every extracurricular athletic activity should be trained to recognize the signs and symptoms of brain injury, including concussions and second impact syndrome; young athletes who appear to have sustained a concussion should have written authorization by a healthcare professional before returning to play; and

WHEREAS, A concussion is caused by a bump, blow or jolt to the head, or from a blow to the body that causes the head to move rapidly back and forth; most concussions occur without a loss of consciousness and,

according to the CDCP, a lack of proper diagnosis and management of a concussion may result in serious long-term consequences, or risk of coma or death; signs and symptoms may be noticeable immediately, or it may take days or weeks before they are present; and

WHEREAS, Concussions are one of the most commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activities; the CDCP reports an estimated 3.8 million sports- and recreation-related concussions occur in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, Concussions can occur in any organized or unorganized sport or recreational activity and can result from a fall or from players colliding with each other, the ground, or with obstacles; continuing to play with a concussion or symptoms of head injury leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable to greater injury and even death; and

WHEREAS, The health and well-being of the people of the State of New York is of paramount importance to this Legislative Body; despite some increased recognition about the importance of diagnosing and treating concussions, some affected youth, our most precious resource, continue to be prematurely returned to play; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2014 as Youth Sports Safety Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Youth Sports Safety Month, to call attention to this important medical concern and to help inform and educate its citizenry; 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.