

## 2013-K995

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim Tuesday, April 8, 2014, as Healthy Schools Day in the State of New York, and to further proclaim April 7 - 11, 2014, as School Building Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Children spend up to half of their daytime in schools and their environs; and

WHEREAS, Schools have the potential to expose children to a broad array of hazards, including air and drinking water contaminants, toxic substances in the soil, synthetic turf and other media, lead-based paints, pesticides and other toxins within and outside of schools, asthma-causing pollutants, molds, radon and asbestos; and

WHEREAS, Children may also be exposed to toxic contaminants when schools are sited near environmental hazards such as hazardous waste disposal sites, or when schools are renovated or expanded; and

WHEREAS, Environmental contaminants can affect children quite differently than adults due to children may be more highly exposed to contaminants and may also be more vulnerable to the toxic effects of contaminants; in addition, environmental contaminants can affect children disproportionately because their immune defenses are not fully developed and their growing organs are more easily harmed; and

WHEREAS, Children eat more food, drink more water, and breathe more air relative to their size than adults do, and consequently, may be exposed to relatively higher amounts of contaminants; and

WHEREAS, Children's normal activities, such as putting their hands in their mouths or playing on the ground, can result in exposure to contamination that adults do not face; and

WHEREAS, There has been a significant rise in the incidence of childhood asthma, learning disabilities and cancer, which may have a corre-

lation to the environmental conditions in our schools; and

WHEREAS, Healthy schools are designed to reduce energy and maintenance costs while providing cleaner air, improved lighting, reduced exposures to toxic substances, materials and supplies, thereby providing a healthier and safer learning environment for children, fostering achievement and well-being; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of School Building Week is to celebrate and highlight high-performing, healthy, safe and sustainable schools facilities; and

WHEREAS, As centers of the community, our schools are the building blocks of our communities and the keystone of our future; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body has been a consistent and powerful advocate for the protection of our children in the school environment; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body believes children in schools should be afforded the same protections as school personnel in their workplace; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim Tuesday, April 8, 2014, as Healthy Schools Day in the State of New York, and to further proclaim April 7 - 11, 2014, as School Building Week 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.