

## 2013-K1037

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2014 as Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Each year, National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Month is observed during the month of April, and New Yorkers join to recognize the altruism and humanitarianism of those who are inspired to "give the gift of life" to a fellow human being; and

WHEREAS, This observance pays tribute to organ donors and their families whose meaningful decision enables others to receive life-saving organs or tissue, whereby a transplant not only improves the quality of life for the recipient, but in many cases can save a life; and

WHEREAS, There are over 121,000 Americans, men, women and children of all ages, who are currently on the waiting list for an organ or tissue transplant, and approximately 10,000 are New Yorkers; while there are more than 19 million people residing in New York State, only 22 percent are currently signed up to be organ, eye and tissue donors; in addition, there are tens of thousands of people nationwide in need of bone, corneal or other tissue transplant, with names added to the waiting list each day; and

WHEREAS, New Yorkers can help prolong another life by enrolling in the New York State Donate Life Registry - a confidential database of individuals who choose to donate their organs and tissues upon their death; and

WHEREAS, Administered by the New York State Department of Health, people can join the registry by enrolling online or when they apply for, or renew, their New York State driver's license, or non-driver's license identification card, or on voter registration forms; furthermore, an individual should discuss his or her wishes of donation with family and

friends; and

WHEREAS, Members of organ and tissue donation advocacy organizations promote donation and have been active in the areas of support, advocacy, education and public awareness; striving to bring together all the components of the transplant community, these organizations also work closely with local transplant centers helping to promote and educate the public about the need for organ and tissue donation; and

WHEREAS, The organs and tissues from a single donor can help as many as 50 recipients, and during National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Month, New Yorkers are reminded of the life-sustaining results of organ and tissue donation and encouraged to consider this immensely generous and selfless act that extends another life; and

WHEREAS, Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Month is also a time to recognize and applaud the researchers, medical professionals, advocates and volunteers, past and present, who have contributed so much to the advancement of organ and tissue donation and transplantation and, most particularly, to acknowledge and express our deepest gratitude for the extraordinary generosity and altruistic gifts of deceased and living donors and their families, so that others may have the opportunity to rear a family, hold a job, and pursue a fuller and more active life; now therefore, be it

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

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitable engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York and the New York Alliance for Donation.