

2013-J4647

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 29, 2014, as LGBT Equality and Justice Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize days that are set aside to increase awareness of movements for equal rights and social justice in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, The movement for equal rights for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community is one of the defining civil rights issues of our time; and

WHEREAS, Thanks to the work of advocates from all across the state, enormous strides have been made towards equality for the LGBT community in the State of New York in recent years, including the legal recognition of same-sex marriage, increased protections for LGBT citizens in the workplace, the right for same-sex couples to adopt children, and increased funding for initiatives to combat HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, Despite the recent progress made towards equal rights for LGBT citizens of New York State, there are still significant hurdles to be crossed on the path to true equality, as LGBT citizens continue to be targets for harassment, abuse, and discrimination, and in many ways are still not truly equal under the eyes of the law; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of citizens from every corner of the state will come together in Albany on April 29th, 2014 for LGBT Equality and Justice Day to embody the spirit of this year's theme, "Many Communities, One New York", and to demonstrate the commitment, strength, and vibrancy of the LGBT movement in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Members and allies of the LGBT community will attend workshops which will serve to educate citizens about the LGBT movement and demonstrate ways to advocate for equal rights; and

WHEREAS, Advocates will also rally in front of the State Capitol Building en masse as the voices of many communities across New York State blend into one united and piercing call for change and for equality; and

WHEREAS, LGBT Equality and Justice Day is the largest annual LGBT advocacy day in the State of New York, and serves as an important reminder of how far we have come, how crucial it is to secure equal rights for all of our citizens regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, and how far we have to go to truly achieve that dream; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 29, 2014, as LGBT Equality and Justice Day 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.