

2013-J4392

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2014 as Prader-Willi Syndrome Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those who provide vital health services to individuals and their families, and in doing so, enhance the health and welfare of the entire State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2014 as Prader-Willi Syndrome Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) is a rare genetic disorder due to an abnormality on the 15th chromosome; and

WHEREAS, Present from birth, PWS is characterized by obesity, decreased muscle tone, decreased mental capacity, and hypogonadism; and

WHEREAS, At first, an infant with PWS will have trouble growing and gaining weight; because of weak muscles (hypotonia), the infant is not able to drink from a bottle, and may need special feeding techniques or tube feedings until his or her muscles become stronger; between ages one through six years, the child with PWS suddenly develops a tremendous interest in food, and starts overeating; and

WHEREAS, It is believed that the child with PWS never feels full after eating, and may actually go on eating binges, which leads to morbid obesity; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that PWS occurs in one of 12,000 to 15,000 births and that approximately 80% of those who have the disease in the United States are still unknown to the Prader-Willi Syndrome Association; and

WHEREAS, It is not uncommon for individuals with PWS to have sleep apnea, respiratory problems, high blood pressure and/or diabetes; and

WHEREAS, There is no cure for PWS; however, the physical problems caused by the syndrome can be managed; during infancy, special feeding techniques and formulas can assist the infant in growth; and

WHEREAS, Physical therapy and exercise help improve strength and coordination; speech therapy helps children who are lacking in their language skills, and as the child grows, eating and weight problems can be controlled through a balanced, low-calorie diet and weight monitoring, along with external food restriction and daily exercise; and

WHEREAS, Individuals and organizations which bring greater awareness to particular health issues, and assist people with specific illnesses in their quest for dignity and independence, are a great benefit to the health and welfare of all citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2014 as Prader-Willi Syndrome 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.