

2013-K1112

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2014 as Oral Cancer Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in calling attention to serious medical conditions which affect thousands of New Yorkers; and
WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2014 as Oral Cancer Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Oral cancer is any cancerous tissue growth located in the oral cavity (the mouth), on the lip, and the oropharynx (the part of the throat at the back of the mouth); and

WHEREAS, Oral cancer most commonly involves the tongue, the floor of the mouth, the lip, and the minor salivary glands; and

WHEREAS, Most oral cancers look very similar under the microscope and are called "squamous cell" carcinomas which are malignant and tend to spread rapidly; and

WHEREAS, The statistics are staggering; it was predicted that in 2009, an estimated 35,720 adults, 25,240 men and 10,480 women, in the United States would be diagnosed with oral and oropharyngeal cancer and that an estimated 7,600 deaths, 5,240 men and 2,360 women, from the disease would occur that year; and

WHEREAS, Oral cancer incidence continues to rise; though it is not definitively known why, recent studies point to exposure to the HPV-16 and 18 viruses, the same viruses which cause the majority of cervical cancers in women; and

WHEREAS, Oral cancer frequently has no symptoms; however, when symptoms do occur, the most common include a sore or ulcer on the lip or in the mouth that does not heal; a lump on the lip, in the mouth, or in the

neck; a white or red patch on the gums, tongue, or lining of the mouth; unusual bleeding, pain, or numbness in the mouth; oral pain that does not go away; difficulty or pain with chewing, swallowing, or jaw opening; swelling of the jaw that causes dentures to fit poorly or to become uncomfortable; tooth loosening; bad breath; sensory loss in the face; abnormal taste in the mouth; or tongue problems; and

WHEREAS, The most recognized risk factors and causes for oral cancer in North America are the use of tobacco, including smokeless and "chew," and alcohol; yet, while tobacco and alcohol consumption continue to decrease, oral cancer incidence continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, The fastest growing risk factor for oral cancer is exposure to the HPV-16 virus (human papilloma virus), the same virus which is responsible for the majority of cervical cancers in women; and

WHEREAS, When detected early, oral cancer patients have an 80 to 90 percent survival rate; and

WHEREAS, Oral cancer screening should be a routine part of every annual dental examination; regular check-ups, including an examination of the entire mouth, are essential in the early detection of cancerous and pre-cancerous conditions; an individual may have a very small, but dangerous, oral spot or sore and not be aware of it; when abnormal tissue or cancer is found early, it may be easier to treat; and

WHEREAS, According to the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), anyone over the age of 17 should get an annual screening for oral cancer and anyone with a history of oral cancer should have a screening every six months; and

WHEREAS, The health and well-being of the people of the State of New York is of paramount importance to this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, The observance of Oral Cancer Awareness Month provides an opportunity to focus on this significant and complex medical condition, to provide information on and raise public awareness and understanding of its causes, effects, and treatments, and to highlight its importance

to citizens of the State of New York of all ages; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to
memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2014 as Oral
Cancer Awareness Month in the State of New York; and be it further
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-
smitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New
York.