

2013-K1050

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 16, 2014, as Healthcare Decisions Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, New York State places the highest priority on the health and well-being of all our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Honoring patient preferences is a critical element in providing quality end-of-life care; and

WHEREAS, Every adult has the right to decide his or her own health care treatment, and, after discussions with loved ones about preferences, should appoint a person as a health care agent he or she trusts to make health care decisions for him or her in the event of incapacity, by executing a health care proxy; and

WHEREAS, It is essential that all adults also discuss their health care wishes with their health care providers, and provide them with a copy of their health care proxy so their health care decisions can be honored if they are incapacitated; and

WHEREAS, It is essential that seriously ill persons, or their designated health care agent or surrogate, work with their physician and consider completing a Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) form if the person wants to avoid or receive any or all life-sustaining treatment, resides in a long-term care facility or requires long-term care services and might die within the next year; and

WHEREAS, The National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) Initiative is a collaborative effort of national, state and community organizations to inspire, educate and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning; and

WHEREAS, The NHDD New York State (NYS) Coalition has promoted National Healthcare Decisions Day in New York State since 2009, and is committed

to ensuring all adults with decision-making capacity have the information and opportunity to communicate and document their health care decisions by aiming to increase conversations which lead to completion of health care proxies, increase awareness of the MOLST Program in the community, and support statewide implementation of MOLST, Family Health Care Decisions Act, Palliative Care Information Act and Palliative Care Access Act, and appropriate legislative changes; and

WHEREAS, The NHDD has designated April 16th as National Healthcare Decisions Day, and hundreds of events will be taking place all over the country to commemorate this day; and

WHEREAS, This observance offers a special and important opportunity to encourage New Yorkers to communicate their health care preferences and execute a health care proxy, and for seriously ill persons to learn about MOLST; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 16, 2014, as Healthcare Decisions 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.