

## 2013-K1170

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 4-10, 2014, as Psoriasis Awareness Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official weeks set aside to increase awareness of health issues which affect the lives of many citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 4-10, 2014, as Psoriasis Awareness Week in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, A Walk to Cure Psoriasis in New York, held on May 4, 2014, is the largest event in the tri-state area dedicated to those living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis; and

WHEREAS, The National Psoriasis Foundation is the leading patient advocacy group for the 7.5 million Americans living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, and supports the most promising early-stage research and emerging researchers as well as provides extensive patient education and promotes online communities; and

WHEREAS, Psoriasis, the most common chronic, autoimmune disease which affects more than 125 million people worldwide, appears on the skin as patches of thick red skin; although no one knows exactly what causes psoriasis, doctors believe it is related to the body's immune system and that it is genetic; and

WHEREAS, In people with psoriasis, the immune system is mistakenly triggered causing skin cells to grow too fast; the rapidly growing cells pile up in the skin's top layers, leading to the formation of lesions on the surface; and

WHEREAS, Psoriasis is not contagious and can develop in both males and

females of any race or age; however, it most often appears between the ages of 15 and 35; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 30 to 50 percent of people with psoriasis are also afflicted with psoriatic arthritis which causes pain, stiffness and swelling in and around the joints; this type of arthritis most often affects the hands, feet, wrists, ankles and lower back; and

WHEREAS, Nearly three percent of the world's population will endure symptoms of psoriasis; many tolerate constant pain from cracking and bleeding skin; they constantly bear the humiliation associated with the visible symptoms of this unsightly condition; and

WHEREAS, People who have psoriasis struggle with the disappointment of treatments and the lack of a cure and often suffer from public rejection because of the misunderstanding surrounding the disease; and

WHEREAS, There is a large misconception among the general population that psoriasis is a trivial matter, requiring little understanding or sympathy; it is often viewed as a cosmetic problem or equated with being unclean or even self-imposed; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this misunderstood health issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and national levels to both enhance the amount of research and to support those individuals who have been afflicted by psoriasis; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 4-10, 2014, as Psoriasis Awareness Week 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.