

2013-K1197

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim July 22, 2014, as Fragile X Awareness Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are set aside to increase awareness of serious illnesses that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; 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 July 22, 2014, as Fragile X Awareness Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Fragile X-associated Disorders (FXD) is a family of genetic conditions that can affect individuals in a variety of ways; the conditions are all caused by changes in the FMR gene; and

WHEREAS, Fragile X Syndrome (FXS) is the most common cause of inherited intellectual disability and the most common known genetic cause of autism or autism spectrum disorders, affecting people of every race, income level and nationality; and

WHEREAS, Fragile X-associated Tremor/Ataxia Syndrome (FXTAS) is an adult-onset condition, occurring more commonly in males than females, that causes tremors and affects balance and memory in some "carriers" of the Fragile X gene and is often mistaken for Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and other conditions; and

WHEREAS, Fragile X-associated Primary Ovarian Insufficiency (FXPOI) is a condition of decreased ovarian function that can lead to reduced fertility or infertility, irregular or absent menstrual periods, and early menopause in some female "carriers" of the Fragile X gene; and

WHEREAS, Over one-million Americans carry (are carriers of) a Fragile X mutation and thus have, or are at risk for developing, a Fragile X-as-

sociated Disorder (FXD), and over 100,000 Americans have Fragile X Syndrome; and

WHEREAS, Fragile X remains frequently undetected due to its recent discovery and the lack of awareness about the syndrome, even within the medical community; and

WHEREAS, The genetic defect causing Fragile X has been discovered and is easily identified by DNA testing; and

WHEREAS, Fragile X is a powerful research model for neuropsychiatric disorders, such as autism, schizophrenia, pervasive developmental disorders and other conditions including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, reproductive problems in women and other medical conditions that may have a genetic basis; and

WHEREAS, With concerted research efforts, a cure for Fragile X Syndrome and associated disorders may be developed; and

WHEREAS, Fragile X research, both basic and applied, has been vastly underfunded despite the prevalence of the disorder, the potential for development of a cure, the established benefits of available treatments and intervention, and the significance that Fragile X research has for related disorders; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious health issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and national levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim July 22, 2014, as Fragile X Awareness 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.