

## 2013-K1209

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 18-25, 2014, as Fibromyalgia Awareness Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, An estimated 10 million people in the United States, and an estimated 3-6 percent of the world's population, have been diagnosed with Fibromyalgia, (FM), an illness for which there is yet no known cause or cure; and

WHEREAS, A chronic syndrome that is increasing at alarming rates, Fibromyalgia causes debilitating widespread pain and fatigue, appears to have a genetic component, and occurs in women, men, and children of all ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, Patients with Fibromyalgia often have to learn to live with widespread pain throughout their bodies, extreme fatigue, sleep disorders, stiffness and weakness, migraine headaches, numbness and tingling, and impairment of memory and concentration; and

WHEREAS, It often takes an average of five years to receive a diagnosis of Fibromyalgia, and medical professionals frequently are inadequately educated regarding the diagnosis and treatment of Fibromyalgia; and

WHEREAS, A 2007 study found that FM patients spend between \$100-\$1,000 per month above insurance costs to see a healthcare provider; costs in the United States are estimated between \$12-14 billion per year and account for loss of 1-2% of the nation's productivity; according to a survey of 1,168 FM patients, 25% had received disability payments, and total healthcare costs may be 2-3 times higher than patients without FM; failure to diagnose and adequately treat Fibromyalgia has deep financial implications for patients and for the healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, According to a fact sheet provided by the National Fibromyal-

gia Association, 90% of physicians agree there is a need for more physician oriented information, and 82% of physicians agree that FM is difficult to treat with currently available tools; use of complementary and alternative medicine is 2 1/2 times higher in FM patients; and WHEREAS, Increased awareness and expanded knowledge of the realities of life with Fibromyalgia will allow the community at large to better support people who struggle with the challenges of this chronic pain disorder; and

WHEREAS, A nonprofit charitable organization, the National Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Association (NFMCPA) has joined together with other groups around the country, including the International Institute For Human Empowerment, Inc., based in New York State, to promote Fibromyalgia awareness and support, including improved education, diagnosis, research and treatment; and

WHEREAS, The International Institute For Human Empowerment, Inc., (IIHE) a non-profit organization in the Capital District of New York, is the sponsor of various Fibromyalgia awareness events, as well as, the Select Empowerment Seminar report: "Fibromyalgia: Awareness, Advocacy, and Action," encouraging the medical community, patients, employers, government health and human rights agencies, educators, and caregivers, to work together to support and improve the lives of Fibromyalgia patients; and

WHEREAS, The International Institute For Human Empowerment, through the leadership of its Founder and Executive Director Sue Shipe, PhD, recently initiated a Fibromyalgia Task Force with the stated intentions: to secure support for a new edition of Fibromyalgia: Awareness, Advocacy and Action, of which 5,000 reports have already been distributed locally, nationally, and internationally; to create a scholarship for Fibro-

myalgia patients to access complementary therapies which are not covered by insurance; and to provide continued public conferences regarding new research findings in Fibromyalgia; to address the concern that the aver-

age time to Fibromyalgia diagnosis is five years, the Fibromyalgia Task Force will provide Legislative awareness, and seek Legislative action, to improve physician education by requiring medical schools in New York State to provide Fibromyalgia education for physicians; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the research of Integrated Tissue Dynamics (INTIDYN), located in Rensselaer, New York, and its Founders Frank L. Rice, PhD, and Philip J. Albrecht, PhD, for their internationally recognized research findings regarding increased peripheral nerve fibers and interrupted regulation of blood flow in FM patients; this research is part of a Fibromyalgia study based at Albany Medical College; based upon implications from these findings, medical researchers are looking at new ways to treat Fibromyalgia and many other pain syndromes; the work of Dr. Rice, Dr. Albrecht and INTIDYN has been recognized in national and international professional pain publications and medical universities; and

WHEREAS, Medical Research in the Capital District of New York is making significant progress in the area of Fibromyalgia and chronic pain, and deserves the support of the people of New York; and

WHEREAS, The community's focus on Fibromyalgia and its impact on patients' lives will help guarantee hope for a better future for people with Fibromyalgia; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the needs of those chronically ill people who suffer from Fibromyalgia, and urges all of our citizens to support the search for a cure and assist those individuals and families who deal with this devastating syndrome on a daily basis; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 18-25, 2014, as Fibromyalgia Awareness Week in the State of New York; and be it further RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; the International Institute For Human Empowerment, Inc.; Inte-

grated Tissue Dynamics; and the National Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Association.