

2013-K1255

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 31, 2014, as Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in recognizing serious health concerns, proclaiming official days to increase awareness of such concerns, which affect thousands of New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Nationwide more than 325,000 Americans die each year from sudden cardiac arrest, the equivalent of 900 people per day, or one person every 90 seconds; and

WHEREAS, More Americans die each year from sudden cardiac arrest than from cancer and car accidents combined; and

WHEREAS, Almost 95 percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims die before they reach a hospital or obtain other emergency medical attention; and

WHEREAS, Eighty percent of sudden cardiac arrests are caused by ventricular fibrillation, a heart rhythm variance for which defibrillation and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) are the only effective treatments; and

WHEREAS, Sudden cardiac arrest causes the brain to begin dying within four to six minutes of onset; for every minute that passes while a person is experiencing sudden cardiac arrest, chances of survival decrease by 10 percent; after six minutes, according to studies conducted by the Mayo Clinic, the chance of resuscitating a sudden cardiac arrest victim is almost zero; and

WHEREAS, While sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death in the United States, Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) can prevent these deaths; AEDs enable medical and non-medical rescuers to deliver a potentially lifesaving defibrillation to sudden cardiac arrest victims; and

WHEREAS, The federal government has already mandated every commercial airplane to have an AED on board and some states have mandated they be placed in certain other locations, such as health studios; and

WHEREAS, Since a sudden cardiac arrest event is 30 times more likely to occur in a school than on an airplane, New York may be justly proud it requires that AEDs be available in every New York State public school, saving many lives; and

WHEREAS, On any given day, 20 percent of the population, both adults and children, occupy our nation's schools; an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 school-aged children and one out of every 100,000 to 300,000 high school athletes die each year from sudden cardiac arrest; and

WHEREAS, Education, training, and preparedness are critical factors in the ability to successfully save the life of a sudden cardiac arrest victim; the national sudden cardiac arrest survival rate without defibrillation and CPR is less than five percent; in communities with strong public access defibrillation programs, the sudden cardiac arrest survival rate, when defibrillation and CPR are provided within the first three minutes, rises to 75 percent; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the critical importance of increasing the survival rate from cardiac arrest and of incorporating the tools of CPR, Public Access Defibrillation, and Automated External Defibrillation into aggressive programs in order to save thousands of lives each year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 31, 2014, as Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Day in the State of New York to educate the public about sudden cardiac arrest, to identify those at risk, to honor the memory of those who have fallen victim to sudden cardiac arrest, and

to celebrate those who have survived by the timely use of an Automated External Defibrillator and cardiopulmonary resuscitation; 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, and to the Louis J. Acompora Memorial Foundation, Northport, New York.