

2013-K1196

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 13, 2014, as Human Trafficking Awareness Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, As part of executing its mission, the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition seeks to eradicate human trafficking and to ensure the use of best practices in the provision of effective and appropriate services to trafficking victims through community outreach, education, training, and policy development; and

WHEREAS, The Coalition is a group of organizations that have joined forces to increase public awareness of human trafficking in our communities, enact anti-trafficking laws, improve law enforcement response and increase social services to help victims escape trafficking; and

WHEREAS, New York is a leading entry, transit and destination point for trafficking victims; and

WHEREAS, New York is committed to the abolition of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Trafficking victims experience a host of health and mental health-related consequences at far greater rates than their counterparts who have not been trafficked; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, as many as 27 million women, men, and children were trafficked according to the United States Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report; and

WHEREAS, As many as 80% of trafficking victims are women and girls; and

WHEREAS, Each year, 15,000 to 18,000 people are trafficked into the United States, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

WHEREAS, The demand for cheap labor and for prostitution has made trafficking in persons a worldwide industry that generates \$32 billion

annually; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, the average age of entry into prostitution is 13 years old and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that over 100,000 American children and youth are victims of sex trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Buying children for sex is child abuse; and

WHEREAS, Public awareness has the potential to increase the identification and reporting of human trafficking by the public, professionals, and victims themselves, and can act as a catalyst to promote long-term prevention and abolition of this form of modern-day slavery; and

WHEREAS, Survivors of human trafficking have first-hand knowledge of the trauma and severe violations that occur in trafficking situations, but also have a deep understanding of necessary solutions for prevention and response; and

WHEREAS, Listening to survivors and fostering survivor leadership allows survivors to connect with their strength and resilience and is critical in the fight to end human trafficking; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 13, 2014, as Human Trafficking Awareness Day 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, and the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition.