

2013-K1300

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, in celebration of its 20th year, to proclaim June 9-15, 2014, as Men's Health Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, June 9 through 15, 2014, marks the 20th year for National Men's Health Week, with the sole purpose of heightening the awareness of preventable health problems and encouraging early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys; and

WHEREAS, As we prepare to celebrate Father's Day and recognize the important men in our lives, it is critical that we bring attention to the unique health concerns many men are faced with; on average, a man's life expectancy is almost six years less than that of a woman; we need to give particular emphasis on the importance of public awareness and education to improve the life expectancy of men in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, National Men's Health Week was established by Congress in 1994 and urges men and their families to engage in appropriate health behaviors; the resulting increased awareness has improved health-related education and has helped prevent illness; and

WHEREAS, The shift to prevention requires not only changes in the health care system, but also an awareness by the American public of the importance of regular visits to their physicians; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing and preventing men's health problems are not just a man's issue; due to the impact on wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters, men's health is truly a family issue; and

WHEREAS, Despite the advances in medical technology and research, men continue to live an average of approximately six years less than women; and

WHEREAS, Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men, afflicting

one out of every 11 American men and killing 34,000 men every year; for African-American men, the rate of affliction is even worse; African-American men have the highest incidence of prostate cancer in the world; and

WHEREAS, In the past five years, the death rate for prostate cancer has grown to almost twice the death rate of breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, Prostate cancer and many other health problems affecting men could be avoided if men's awareness of health screening tests were increased; heightening the awareness of preventable health problems and increasing early detection and treatment of disease would significantly improve our Nation's health, as well as save limited health care dollars; and

WHEREAS, Women visit the doctor 1.5 times more often than men, enabling them to detect health problems in their early stages; and

WHEREAS, Significant numbers of male related health problems such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, infertility, and colon cancer, could be detected and treated if men's awareness of these problems was more pervasive; and

WHEREAS, Appropriate use of tests such as Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) exams, blood pressure screens, cholesterol screens, etc., in conjunction with clinical examination and self-testing for problems such as testicular cancer can result in the detection of many of these problems in their early stages and increases in the survival rates to nearly 100 percent; and

WHEREAS, Many men are reluctant to visit their health center or physician for regular screening examinations of male related problems for a variety of reasons including fear, lack of information, and cost factors; and

WHEREAS, Men who are educated about the value that preventive health can play in prolonging their lifespan and their role as a productive family member will be more likely to participate in health screenings;

and

WHEREAS, Educating both the public and health care providers about the importance of early detection of male health problems will result in reducing rates of mortality for these diseases; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, in celebration of its 20th year, to proclaim June 9-15, 2014, as Men's Health Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Men's Health Week; 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.