

## 2015-J809

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2015 as Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in calling attention to serious medical conditions which affect thousands of New Yorkers; and  
WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2015 as Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month; and  
WHEREAS, The mission of National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month is to ask people: Will You Stand Up for Those Who Can't?; the month also helps raise awareness regarding spinal cord injuries and the services and support needed by individuals who sustain them; and  
WHEREAS, In addition, Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month strives to educate that while not all spinal cord injuries can be prevented, certain high-risk behaviors can be identified and eliminated such as safe driving techniques and increased self-awareness/focus; and  
WHEREAS, In the United States alone, there are an estimated 275,000 people living with a spinal cord injury; a majority of injuries occur from motor vehicle accidents, falls, work-related accidents, and sports injuries; furthermore, a number of our wounded veterans suffer from this affliction; and  
WHEREAS, Every 48 seconds, a person becomes paralyzed and approximately 12,000 people are paralyzed each year in the United States; and  
WHEREAS, The National Spinal Cord Injury Association is the largest national non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the rights of people with spinal cord injuries; their work through initiatives in advocacy and government policy has been vital in issues affecting disa-

bility travel, accessible buildings and universal designs for persons suffering from paralysis; and

WHEREAS, With governments around the world reducing spending on medical care, disability equipment and housing, it is becoming increasingly more vital to raise spinal cord injury awareness so charities can provide essential equipment and services for those in need; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has recognized September as National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month, acknowledging the critical need for better treatments and preventive measures on behalf of individuals with a spinal cord injury and their families; and

WHEREAS, By increasing funding for education, training, and support of people with such medical conditions, the National Spinal Cord Injury Association fights to ensure no individual has to face spinal cord injury alone; and

WHEREAS, It is in the interest of the State of New York to recognize the achievements made and to continue these efforts by promoting the prevention and educating the public about the dangers of spinal cord injury; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2015 as Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month 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 National Spinal Cord Injury Association.