

## 2015-K649

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 2015 as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months that are set aside to increase awareness of serious issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 2015, as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a term used to describe airflow obstruction that is associated mainly with emphysema and chronic bronchitis; and

WHEREAS, There is indication of COPD being underdiagnosed as an estimated 24 million people have evidence of impaired lung function, and COPD kills more than 120,000 Americans every year; on average, one person dies from COPD every four minutes; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, the National Center for Health Statistics released a report stating in 2008, COPD became the third leading cause of death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Pulmonary experts predict that, by the year 2020, COPD will become the third leading cause of death worldwide; and

WHEREAS, COPD currently accounts for 1.5 million emergency room visits, 715,000 hospitalizations, and eight million physician office and hospital outpatient visits, all of which are a detriment to the United States economy; COPD costs the nation an estimated \$49.9 billion in direct and indirect medical costs annually; and

WHEREAS, Smoking is the primary risk factor for COPD; approximately 85 to 90 percent of COPD deaths are caused by smoking; and

WHEREAS, COPD affects almost 650,000 citizens of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Coordinated community efforts, such as the New York COPD Coalition, a public-private partnership of individuals and organizations which created the New York COPD Action Plan, can result in dramatic improvements to public health and reduced healthcare costs; and

WHEREAS, New York COPD Coalition Members represent the following organizations: 1199 SEIU Alpha-1 Foundation, American Lung Association in New York, Burke Rehabilitation Hospital, COPD Foundation, Crouse and Community General Hospital, Emblem Health, Mount Sinai Medical Center, MVP Health Care, New York Business Group on Health, New York State Department of Health, New York State Society of Respiratory Care, New York Medical College, New York Presbyterian Healthcare System, New York City Transit Authority, New York Health Plan Association, North Shore/LIJ Center for Tobacco Control, NYU Medical Center, Rochester General Hospital, SUNY at Stony Brook, St. Peters Hospital, St. Charles Hospital, University of Rochester Medical Center, and Visiting Nurse Service of New York; and

WHEREAS, Research has identified a hereditary protein deficiency called Alpha-1 Antitrypsin; people with this deficiency tend to develop COPD, even without exposure to smoking or environmental triggers; and

WHEREAS, There is currently no cure for COPD; spirometry testing and medical treatments exist to address symptom relief and possibly slow the progression of the disease; and

WHEREAS, Until there is a cure, the best approaches to preventing COPD and its considerable health, societal, and mortality impacts lie with

education, awareness, and expanded delivery of detection and management protocols; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 2015, as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month in the State of New York; 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.