

2015-J2960

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 6, 2015, as Suicide Prevention Day in New York State

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

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 6, 2015, as Suicide Prevention Day in New York State, in conjunction with World Suicide Prevention Day; and

WHEREAS, A national movement to prevent suicide is essential to protect the lives of New Yorkers, and education and awareness will empower loved ones and health professionals to stand up and fight suicide; and

WHEREAS, Between 2010-2014, suicide rates rose; nearly 30,000 Americans commit suicide every year, and on average, one person commits suicide every 16.2 minutes; and

WHEREAS, Suicide is the 10th leading cause of all deaths in the United States, the third leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 15 to 24, and the second leading cause of death among college students; and

WHEREAS, 50 percent of people who die by suicide use a firearm, and guns stored in the house are used for suicide 40 times more often than for self-protection; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, 494,169 people visited a hospital for injuries due to self-harming behavior, suggesting that approximately 12 people harm themselves for every reported death by suicide; and

WHEREAS, Those who try to harm themselves may exhibit one or more warning signs, such as talking about it or exhibiting a change in behav-

ior; and

WHEREAS, There are several factors which may influence someone to try and take their own life, including mental health, depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorder, and substance abuse; environmental, exposure to another's suicide, prolonged stress, and bullying; and historical, previous suicide attempts, and family inclination towards suicide; and

WHEREAS, Suicide also makes a huge impact on the Nation's economy; in 2010, the economic cost of suicide death in the United States was estimated to be more than \$44 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, In addition, an estimated \$2 billion was spent on medical care for those with non-fatal injuries due to self-harm, and another \$4.3 billion is spent for indirect costs, such as lost wages and productivity; and

WHEREAS, The stigma surrounding suicide and mental illness too often impedes an individual's ability to seek treatment, share their personal story, grieve appropriately for the loss of a loved one, and move through a journey of healing and recovery; and

WHEREAS, A great many suicides are preventable; thousands of advocates, caregivers, consumers and professionals work tirelessly to raise awareness, reduce stigma, educate New Yorkers and influence public policy such that mental health services are readily available and accessible, and the state's capacity to prevent the tragedy of suicide among its populous is strengthened; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 6, 2015, as Suicide Prevention Day in New York State; 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.