

2015-J4267

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim Wednesday, March 16, 2016, as Kick Butts Day in the State of New York

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, 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 Wednesday, March 16, 2016, as Kick Butts Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the Annual National Kick Butts Day, sponsored by Tobacco-Free Kids; and

WHEREAS, According to the New York State Department of Health, every year smoking kills approximately 25,500 people in New York; secondhand smoke kills about 2,500 New Yorkers and an estimated 570,000 New Yorkers are afflicted with serious disease caused by smoking; furthermore, it is projected 389,000 young people, 0-17, from New York State will die from smoking; and

WHEREAS, Organized by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Kick Butts Day is a national day of activism that empowers youth to speak up and take action against Big Tobacco at more than 1,000 events to be held from coast to coast; the main focus of this day is on youth and tobacco use, prevention, tobacco cessation, and reducing exposure to second hand smoke; and

WHEREAS, On Kick Butts Day, teachers, youth leaders and health advocates organize events to raise awareness of the problem of tobacco use in their state or community, encourage youth to reject the tobacco industry's deceptive marketing and stay tobacco-free, and urge elected officials to take action to protect kids from tobacco; and

WHEREAS, The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids is a leading force in the fight to reduce tobacco use and its deadly toll in the United States and around the world; the dedicated members of this vital non-profit organization envision a future free of the death and disease caused by tobacco; and

WHEREAS, The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids works to save lives by advocating for public policies that prevent kids from smoking, and help smokers quit and protect everyone from secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, To achieve this monumental goal, the organization promotes public policies proven to reduce tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke, such as higher tobacco taxes, comprehensive smoke-free laws, well-funded tobacco prevention and stop-smoking programs, and tough regulation of tobacco products and marketing; expose and counter tobacco industry efforts to market to children and mislead the public; strengthen tobacco control efforts in the United States and worldwide by providing support and information to our many partners; mobilize organizations and individuals to join the fight against tobacco; empower a tobacco-free generation by fostering youth leadership and activism; and inform the public, policy makers and the media about tobacco's devastating consequences and the effectiveness of the policies it supports; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious health issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and national levels to reduce the deadly toll of smoking and protect nonsmokers from the clearly-established dangers of secondhand tobacco smoke; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim Wednesday, March 16, 2016, as Kick Butts Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with

National Kick Butts Day, sponsored by Tobacco-Free Kids; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.