

## 2015-J5014

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2016, as Sickle Cell 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 illnesses 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, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2016, as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of World Sickle Cell Day on June 19, 2016; and

WHEREAS, World Sickle Cell Day, celebrated on June 19th of each year, is recognized globally and was created by the United Nations by resolution; in the United States, September is Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month, however it is not recognized in every state and is not recognized globally; it is created by State representatives voting to recognize it in their individual state; and

WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease is a hereditary blood disorder that can cause severe pain and result in damage to the brain and other vital organs like the kidneys, liver, spleen and heart; and

WHEREAS, People who have the disease, but do not experience the symptoms are said to have the sickle cell trait; and

WHEREAS, The month of September has been devoted to raise awareness for the estimated 100,000 Americans living with the disease; and

WHEREAS, Since Sickle Cell Awareness Month was created in 1983, every child born in the United States is screened for the disease so that those diagnosed can begin treatment right away; and

WHEREAS, The only known cure for sickle cell disease is through a

transplant of bone marrow or stem cells; and

WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease is most common in Africans and African-Americans, but the disease can also be found in other demographics, primarily in South and Central America, the Caribbean, Mediterranean countries and India; approximately 1 in 12 African-Americans are diagnosed with the trait; and

WHEREAS, The most basic symptoms of sickle cell disease are fatigue, shortness of breath and episodes of serious pain that will likely require hospitalization; these symptoms will begin to show within the very first year of a person's life if they have the disease and the pain ranges from mild to very severe; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater awareness of this serious health condition, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and National levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2016, as Sickle Cell 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.