

2017-K409

Assembly Resolution No. 409

BY: M. of A. Gunther

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim
May 7-14, 2017, as Fibromyalgia Awareness Week in
the State of New York

WHEREAS, An estimated 10 million people in the United States, and an estimated 3-6 percent of the world's population, have been diagnosed with Fibromyalgia, (FM), an illness for which there is yet no known cause or cure; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Association, while 75-90% of those diagnosed with Fibromyalgia are women, yet, children and men are also affected; Juvenile Fibromyalgia is gaining increasingly more attention and research; and

WHEREAS, A chronic syndrome that is increasing at alarming rates, Fibromyalgia causes debilitating widespread pain and fatigue, appears to have a genetic component, and occurs in women, men, and children of all ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, Patients with Fibromyalgia often have to learn to live with widespread pain throughout their bodies, extreme fatigue, sleep disorders, stiffness and weakness, migraine headaches, numbness and tingling, and impairment of memory and concentration; and

WHEREAS, It often takes an average of five years to receive a diagnosis of Fibromyalgia, and medical professionals frequently are inadequately educated regarding the diagnosis and treatment of Fibromyalgia; and

WHEREAS, A 2007 study found that FM patients spend between \$100-\$1,000 per month above insurance costs to see healthcare providers; costs in the United States are estimated between \$12-14 billion per year and account for loss of 1-2% of the nation's productivity; and

WHEREAS, According to a survey of 1,168 FM patients, 25% had received disability payments, and total healthcare costs may be 2-3 times higher than patients without FM; failure to diagnose and adequately treat Fibromyalgia has deep financial implications for patients and for the healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, According to a fact sheet provided by the National Fibromyalgia Association, 90% of physicians agree there is a need for more physician- oriented information, and 82% of physicians agree that FM is difficult to treat with the tools currently available; use of complementary and alternative medicine is 2 1/2 times higher in FM patients; and

WHEREAS, Patients report that the optimal approach to treating Fibromyalgia is a team of physicians and complementary therapists tailoring the treatment for each individual patient; and

WHEREAS, Fibromyalgia patients are often misunderstood by the medical, business, and education communities, primarily due to the lack of education in medical schools about what is known regarding this potentially disabling illness; and

WHEREAS, Fibromyalgia patients often lose jobs, insurance, homes, and spouses or significant others due to lack of awareness and understanding about the potentially devastating personal impact of Fibromyalgia; and

WHEREAS, New York State's focus on Fibromyalgia and its impact on patients' lives will help guarantee hope for a better future for people with Fibromyalgia; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the needs of those chronically ill people who suffer from Fibromyalgia, and urges all of our citizens to support the search for a cure and assist those individuals and families who deal with this devastating syndrome on a daily basis; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 7-14, 2017, as Fibromyalgia Awareness Week 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.