

2017-J2457

Senate Resolution No. 2457

BY: Senator HANNON

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew Cuomo to proclaim October 2017, as Spina Bifida 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 Cuomo to proclaim October 2017, as Spina Bifida Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Spina Bifida Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, Spina Bifida is a birth defect that involves the incomplete development of the spinal cord or its coverings; and

WHEREAS, Spina Bifida is a neural tube defect that occurs during the first month of pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, Neural tube defects are costly and can result in lifelong disabilities and death; and

WHEREAS, There are many New Yorkers living with Spina Bifida for

whom health and support services are critical to their well-being and improving their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, In New York State 2.06 babies out of 10,000 are affected with Spina Bifida; and

WHEREAS, Children born with spina bifida have medical expenditures that are 13 times the average child without spina bifida; and

WHEREAS, The average total lifetime cost to society for an infant born with spina bifida exceeds \$1 million; and

WHEREAS, Folic acid is the single most effective weapon against Spina Bifida; and

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that taking folic acid decreases the risk for neural tube defects during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that 55% of all pregnancies in New York State are unplanned; folic acid education can help women of child-bearing age understand the benefits of taking a daily multivitamin to avoid these birth defects; and

WHEREAS, Experts recommend that all women of child-bearing age in the United States who are capable of becoming pregnant should consume 400 micrograms of folic acid per day for the purpose of reducing their risk of having a pregnancy affected with Spina Bifida; and

WHEREAS, Prevalence of Spina Bifida among children from birth to 11 years of age declined by 1.4% annually from 1991 to 2002 with a consistent reduction each year due to folic acid fortification of the food supply; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize this month in the State of New York to raise awareness regarding the challenges of living with Spina Bifida and steps that can be taken to prevent Spina Bifida; 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 Cuomo to proclaim October 2017, as Spina Bifida Awareness Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, and the Spina Bifida Association of Northeastern New York.