

## 2017-K1319

Assembly Resolution No. 1319

BY: M. of A. Rules (Perry)

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim  
June 7, 2018, as Sickle Cell Healthcare Priority 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  
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 Thursday, June 7, 2018,  
as Sickle Cell Healthcare Priority Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, The Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Caucus will  
hold a Sickle Cell forum on this day at the New York State Capitol, in  
Albany, New York, to bring public awareness as well as to elevate this  
disease to a healthcare priority with the assistance of both  
not-for-profits and advocates across the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, This vital forum is the first of its kind to come together  
to create awareness and bring new accessible medications, with the hope  
of finding a cure for Sickle Cell disease (SCD); and

WHEREAS, The first description of SCD was by James B. Herrick, a

physician from Chicago, who noted in his medical literature in 1910, that a patient of his from the West Indies had an anemia characterized by unusual red cells that were "sickle shaped"; and

WHEREAS, SCD is a group of blood disorders typically inherited from a person's parents; the most common type is known as sickle-cell anaemia (SCA) which results in an abnormality in the oxygen-carrying protein haemoglobin found in red blood cells and leads to a rigid, sickle-like shape under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Problems in SCD typically begin around 5 to 6 months of age; a number of health problems may develop, such as attacks of pain (sickle-cell crisis), anemia, swelling in the hands and feet, bacterial infections, and stroke; and

WHEREAS, SCD affects millions of people throughout the world and is particularly common among those whose ancestors came from sub-Saharan Africa; Spanish-speaking regions in the Western Hemisphere such as South America, the Caribbean, and Central America; Saudi Arabia; India; and Mediterranean countries including Turkey, Greece, and Italy; and

WHEREAS, The exact number of people living with SCD in the United States is unknown; SCD occurs in approximately 1 out of every 16,300 Hispanic-American births; furthermore, approximately 1 in 13 Black or African-American babies is born with sickle cell trait (SCT); and

WHEREAS, Long term pain may develop as people get older and the average life expectancy in the developed world is 40 to 60 years; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater awareness of this serious disease, 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 memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 7, 2018, as Sickle Cell Healthcare Priority Day 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.