

2017-K1401

Assembly Resolution No. 1401

BY: M. of A. Rules (Pellegrino)

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October 21-27, 2018, as Safe Schools Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance with America's Safe Schools Week

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official weeks that are set aside to increase awareness of serious issues that affect the lives of our students from the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October 21-27, 2018, as Safe Schools Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of America's Safe Schools Week; and

WHEREAS, America's Safe Schools Week occurs annually during the third full week in October; activities conducted during this special week draw attention to the continuing problem of school violence and educate everyone about how schools can be made safer and more secure; and

WHEREAS, America's Safe Schools Week offers an opportunity to address this very important issue and to take steps to ensure that

schools offer students and teachers an environment in which they can perform to the best of their abilities; and

WHEREAS, It is also important to increase dialogue and partnerships between the school districts, parents, community members and students to promote a safe and secure school setting; and

WHEREAS, Each school day, our nation's schools are entrusted to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for approximately 55 million elementary and secondary school students; and

WHEREAS, Lessons learned from school emergencies, such as school shootings at Columbine, Sandy Hook, and Parkland, highlight the importance of preparing school officials and first responders to implement emergency operations plans; by having plans in place to keep students and staff safe, schools play a key role in taking preventative and protective measures to stop an emergency from occurring or reduce the impact of an incident; and

WHEREAS, If an incident should occur, it is imperative that support services and social/emotional learning programs are available to each and every student and school staff member; and

WHEREAS, On February 14, 2018, a mass shooting was committed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida; 17 people were killed and 17 more were wounded, making it one of the world's deadliest school massacres; and

WHEREAS, One month later, tens of thousands of students across the country walked out of their classrooms on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, and onto athletic fields and city streets as part of a massive national protest on gun violence spurred by the shooting in Parkland; and

WHEREAS, The walkouts, which came 10 days before the March For Our Lives in Washington, D.C. which drew approximately 200,000 students to our nation's capital, are unprecedented in recent American history, not seen in size or scope since student protests of the Vietnam War in the late 1960s; and

WHEREAS, Supporters say the walkouts and demonstrations represent a realization of power and influence by young people raised on social media who have come of age in an era of never-ending wars, highly publicized mass shootings and virulent national politics; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the efforts of all those who raise awareness and educate others about the very real dangers in our schools, thereby improving the quality of life for our youth, our most precious resource; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October 21-27, 2018, as Safe Schools Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of America's Safe Schools Week; 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.