

## 2023-J194

Senate Resolution No. 194

BY: Senator PERSAUD

COMMEMORATING the 31st Anniversary of Myalgic  
Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness  
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  
commemorate the 31st Anniversary of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic  
Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, International Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue  
Syndrome (ME/CFS) Awareness Day is observed every year on May 12th to  
support and recognize people with this disease and other chronic  
immunological and neurological diseases by raising awareness and  
providing useful information; and

WHEREAS, On May 12, 2023, people from across the world are  
encouraged to wear blue to raise awareness and show support for people  
with ME/CFS, their families and caregivers, and researchers who study  
this disease; and

WHEREAS, ME/CFS is a serious, long-term illness that affects

multiple body systems; people with this illness suffer from inability to perform usual activities associated with extreme fatigue, post-exertional malaise or PEM, sleep problems, and other problems with thinking and concentrating, pain, and dizziness; and

WHEREAS, In 2018, it was reported 1 to 2.5 million Americans of all ages, races and genders are living with ME/CFS, and approximately 62,000-152,000 people in New York; and

WHEREAS, Myalgic Encephalomyelitis persists for years or decades due to a lack of treatments, leaving 25% of patients housebound or bedbound, with many students unable to attend school and 75%-85% of patients unable to work, costing the economy of New York State millions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, The National Academy of Medicine noted a lack of knowledge about the disease due to a lack of research and funding for research, owing largely to a lack of awareness of the disease; and

WHEREAS, The National Academy of Medicine stated that as a result of this lack of awareness and research, many patients encounter medical professionals who doubt the existence of their disease and have tremendous difficulty being properly diagnosed and accessing appropriate medical care; and

WHEREAS, ME/CFS is a tragic, disabling disease which destroys the lives of many patients and imposes a severe toll on their families, friends, and caretakers; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater awareness of this serious health condition, and more must be done to increase awareness

and funding at the local, State and National levels; now, therefore, be  
it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to  
commemorate the 31st Anniversary of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic  
Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Day in the State of New York.