

2023-J447

Senate Resolution No. 447

BY: Senator KAVANAGH

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 23, 2023, as Student Press Freedom 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 the safety and protection of our journalists; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim Thursday, February 23, 2023, as Student Press Freedom Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Student Press Freedom Day; and

WHEREAS, Established in 2018 by the Student Press Law Center to mark the 30th anniversary of the Kuhlmeier decision, Student Press Freedom Day is an occasion to celebrate the field of student journalism and advocate for freedom of speech, and liberty from censorship; and

WHEREAS, Observed annually, Student Press Freedom Day is a national day of action when student journalists in the United States raise awareness of the challenges they face, celebrate their contributions to their schools and communities, and take actions to protect and restore their First Amendment freedoms; and

WHEREAS, On Thursday, February 23, 2023, the Student Press Law Center is holding a day of action, with this year's theme being, "Bold Journalism & Brave Advocacy"; and

WHEREAS, The Student Press Law Center will host and promote trainings and community building opportunities that are designed to uplift student journalists' voices and prepare them to advocate for press freedom; and

WHEREAS, The integrity of journalism is derived from the Code of Ethics as determined by the Society of Professional Journalists; and

WHEREAS, Student reporters are the next generation of journalists; it is a difficult time for journalists as media across the country has come under attack; recognizing the importance of the profession will support journalistic integrity and independence which is needed in a democratic society; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 23, 2023, as Student Press Freedom Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York; the Student Press Law Center; and New Voices of New York chapters throughout the State of New York.