

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2013 as Minority Health 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 issues 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, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2013 as Minority Health Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with National Minority Health Month; and

WHEREAS, The theme of this year's National Health Month, "Advance Health Equity Now: Uniting our Communities to Bring Health Care Coverage to All," embodies the dynamic efforts that continue to close the gap in health care disparities and usher in a new era that improves access to high quality health care for all Americans; as a unifying collaboration between federal, state, nonprofit, academic and private sector partners for Minority Health Month, it builds on implementation of the Affordable Care Act to engage all consumers as advocates for their own health care and that of their families and communities; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Minority Health (OMH) was created in 1986 and is one of the most significant outcomes of the 1985 SECRETARY'S TASK FORCE REPORT ON BLACK AND MINORITY HEALTH; and

WHEREAS, OMH is dedicated to improving the health of racial and ethnic minority populations through the development of health policies and programs that will help eliminate health disparities; and

WHEREAS, When comparing their health indicators against those of the rest of the United States population, poor health outcomes for African Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders are apparent; and

WHEREAS, These populations experience higher rates of illness and death from health conditions such as heart disease, stroke, specific cancers, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, asthma, hepatitis B, and overweight and obesity; and

WHEREAS, OMH's primary responsibility is to improve health and health-care for minority communities by developing or advancing policies, programs, and practices that address health, social, economic, environmental and other factors which impact health; and

WHEREAS, OMH programs address disease prevention, health promotion, risk reduction, healthier lifestyle choices, use of health care services, and barriers to health care; and

WHEREAS, OMH works in partnership with communities and organizations in the public and private sectors; these collaborations support a systems approach for eliminating health disparities, national planning to identify priorities, and coordinated responses through focused initiatives; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this health issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and national levels to improve health and healthcare outcomes for racial and ethnic minority communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2013 as Minority Health Month 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.