

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2013 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The month of April is a time to understand that everyone can play a part in promoting the physical, social, and emotional well-being of children and families; and

WHEREAS, It is absolutely critical that the State of New York do all it can to protect every child and to help foster a healthy, safe environment for children to learn and grow; and

WHEREAS, Each year, more than three million children in the United States are reported as victims of child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, At least 1,545 children tragically lose their lives at the hands of an adult abuser each year in our country -- most before they even turn four years-old; and

WHEREAS, The United States ranks highest in child abuse fatalities of any industrialized nation; and

WHEREAS, The loss of even one child to abuse is one child too many; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, 72,625 children were abused or neglected in New York; and

WHEREAS, In our country, a child is abused or neglected every 36 seconds, and, according to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, only 40 percent of abused children receive the services they need to fully recover from their suffering; and

WHEREAS, When abuse happens, it can leave traumatic and long-lasting physical and emotional effects; research studies have linked child maltreatment with adverse health and mental health outcomes in children and families, and the negative effects can last a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, A child's early experience of being nurtured and developing a bond with a caring adult affects all aspects of behavior and development; and

WHEREAS, When parents and children have strong, warm feelings for one another, children develop trust that their parents will provide what they need to thrive, including love, acceptance, positive guidance, and protection; and

WHEREAS, All families benefit when the State keeps children safe; information, guidance, and support have historically helped millions of families as they meet the challenges of parenthood; and

WHEREAS, Young New Yorkers are our future; children, our most precious resource must be kept safe and protected from harm; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2013 as Child Abuse Prevention 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.