

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 21-27, 2013, as Abusive Head Trauma/Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The most recent statistics compiled by the federal government show that 681,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect in the United States in 2011, including 72,625 children in New York State, of whom 6,825 were under one year of age; and

WHEREAS, On an average day in the United States, at least four children will die as a consequence of abuse or neglect by a caregiver; and

WHEREAS, Children younger than one year of age accounted for 42.4 percent of all child abuse and neglect fatalities in 2011, and children younger than 4 years-old accounted for 75 percent of all child abuse and neglect fatalities in 2011; and

WHEREAS, The leading cause of death of abused children under age 5 is Abusive Head Trauma, including the inflicted trauma known as Shaken Baby Syndrome; and

WHEREAS, On average 1200 to 1400 children in the United States are diagnosed with AHT/SBS every year, and medical experts believe many additional cases are likely misdiagnosed or undetected; and

WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome and other inflicted head trauma occurs when a caregiver loses control and shakes a baby or young child, most frequently less than 1 year of age but in some cases as old as 5 years of age, resulting in loss of vision, brain damage, paralysis, seizures, or death; and

WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome often causes permanent, irreparable brain damage or death to an infant, and may result in more than \$1,000,000 in medical and rehabilitation costs for the care of a single disabled child during the first years of life; and

WHEREAS, A growing body of medical evidence indicates that even mild trauma to the brain caused by AHT/SBS is likely to cause learning disabilities in children and substantially increase the risk of substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated in 2011 that the average cost of child maltreatment is \$210,012 over the course of a victim's lifetime, including the costs of child welfare, special education, criminal justice expenses, medical care and lost productivity as an adult; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that the taxpayers of the State of New York may, through the State Medicaid program, pay as much as 41% of the medical and rehabilitation costs that result from inflicted head injuries; and

WHEREAS, The national cost of child abuse is estimated by the Centers for Disease Control to be more than \$124 billion a year, and the cost of child abuse in New York State is estimated to exceed \$13 billion a year; and

WHEREAS, The most effective way to end AHT/SBS is by educating parents and caregivers about the danger of shaking children and providing the skills needed to cope with frustration and anger, and it is clear that the minimal costs of educational and preventative programs may avert enormous medical and disability costs and untold grief for many families; and

WHEREAS, Evidence-based education and awareness programs, such as the nationally recognized New York SBS Prevention Project, developed by Dr. Mark Dias with the support of the NYS Children and Families Trust Fund, and implemented in collaboration with Kalieda Health Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo and the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital of

Westchester, are shown to raise awareness and provide critically impor-

tant information about SBS to parents, caregivers, daycare workers, and health care professionals; and

WHEREAS, The New York SBS Prevention Project and the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital reported in 2011 that following the implementation of prevention education at 21 hospitals in the lower Hudson Valley, the number of cases of AHT dropped by 75%; and

WHEREAS, Home visiting programs, such as Healthy Families New York, the Nurse Family Partnership, and other home programs for new parents have also shown great promise to prevent maltreatment among vulnerable families; and

WHEREAS, These prevention efforts are supported by national groups such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, Prevent Child Abuse America and the National Center for Shaken Baby Syndrome, as well as individuals and organizations in New York State, such as Prevent Child Abuse New York, the Cynthia Gibbs Foundation, and the SKIPPER Initiative, who work to educate new parents and caregivers, increase awareness among the general public and professionals, and encourage increased support for victims and their families in the health care and criminal justice systems; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Legislature has enacted legislation to help increase awareness of AHT/SBS by requiring that: hospitals offer written information about Shaken Baby Syndrome (2001); new child care providers be educated about the causes, consequences and prevention of SBS before they are licensed to care for children (2003); hospitals to offer new parents the opportunity to watch a video about the causes, consequences and prevention of SBS so that they can help protect their child from shaking injuries (2004); the Health Department coordinate a statewide campaign to educate the public about the causes, consequences and prevention of SBS (2006); the Education Department provide a curriculum on SBS to schools so that students, who not only may be parents some day, but who may be babysitting for young children now, are educated about the importance of coping skills (2006); and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body wishes to commend those advocates, organizations and agencies of State, county and local governments which work continuously and tirelessly to educate parents and caregivers about the causes, consequences and prevention of SBS and other inflicted injuries; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body also wishes to commend the staff of the New York Shaken Baby Prevention Program for 15 successful years of  
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supporting prevention education for new parents, since it was established in 1998 as the Upstate New York Shaken Baby Prevention Project at Kalieda Children's Hospital in Buffalo, and subsequently joined with the Hudson Valley Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Initiative, established in 2007 at the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital in Westchester, to support prevention education at all New York State maternity hospitals; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body particularly wishes to recognize the nurse educators who provide this education to new parents at New York's maternity hospitals so every new parent has the opportunity to learn how they can help protect their children from shaking injuries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 21-27, 2013, as Abusive Head Trauma/Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week 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.