

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to declare May 2013, as Hepatitis C Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Hepatitis is a known public health threat and is known to be caused by many viruses; and

WHEREAS, Chronic viral hepatitis due to Hepatitis C has been a disease that has little or no public awareness due to its nature as being largely asymptomatic until irreversible liver damage has occurred; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis C currently infects nearly four million Americans, including an estimated 158,000 New Yorkers, and there are about 30,000 new cases and approximately 10,000 deaths each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The consequences of Hepatitis C cost approximately \$7.5 million per 100,000 people; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is largely nonreported and the public is uninformed about the virus; and

WHEREAS, In the absence of a vaccine for Hepatitis C, emphasis must be placed on other means of disease prevention, including education of health care workers, emergency services workers, veterans and the general public; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis C has been characterized by the World Health Organization as a disease of primary concern to humanity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to declare May 2013, as Hepatitis C Awareness Month in the State of New York, and to urge the citizens of this great Empire State to learn about the causes, symptoms, diagnoses and treatments for Hepatitis C; 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.