

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION recognizing September 23, 2013, as National Restless Legs Syndrome - Willis-Ekbom Disease Awareness Day

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are set aside to increase awareness of serious conditions 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 recognize September 23, 2013, as National Restless Legs Syndrome - Willis-Ekbom Disease Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, Restless Legs Syndrome, also known as Willis-Ekbom disease, is a neurological disorder characterized by unpleasant sensations in the legs and a distressing, irresistible urge to move them; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 10 million adults in the United States, three percent of the country, and millions of others worldwide have been affected by Restless Legs Syndrome, a disease for which there is no known cure; and

WHEREAS, The diagnostic accuracy of Restless Legs Syndrome is an issue among clinicians; of those meeting the criteria for Restless Legs Syndrome in the Restless Legs Syndrome Epidemiology, Symptoms, and Treatment (REST) study, only 6.2% of patients received a diagnosis of Willis-Ekbom disease; and

WHEREAS, Symptoms typically include an urge to move the legs caused by uncomfortable and unpleasant sensations in the legs, presenting or worsening in the evening or night, and daytime symptoms of Restless Legs Syndrome have been established; and

WHEREAS, Restless Legs Syndrome has an impact on sleep, concentration, and work productivity; with 68.6% of patients needing more than 30 minutes (generally regarded as pathologic) to initiate sleep and 60.1% waking three or more times per night; with 49.7% of patients reporting that symptoms adversely affect next day concentration; and with patients with moderate-to-severe Restless Legs Syndrome having an overall mean loss of workplace productivity of 1 day per 40-hour work week; and

WHEREAS, Increased awareness and expanded knowledge of the realities of life with Restless Legs Syndrome will allow the community at large to better support people who struggle with the challenges of this condition; and

WHEREAS, The Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation, a nonprofit organization, and other groups throughout the United States have joined together to promote Restless Legs Syndrome awareness and support including improved education, diagnosis, research, and treatment; and

WHEREAS, The Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation is urging patients and their supporters, healthcare providers, and the general public to demonstrate their caring by sharing the road patients walk, the facts about Restless Legs Syndrome, and ever-growing awareness about the etiology of this disorder and treatments; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious health condition, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and national levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize September 23, 2013, as National Restless Legs Syndrome - Willis-Ekbom Disease Awareness Day, and to urge all citizens to support the search for a cure and assist those individuals and families who deal with this condition on a daily basis; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation.