

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 12-19, 2013, as Fibromyalgia Awareness Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, An estimated 10 million people in the United States, six to eight percent of the population, and millions of people worldwide have been diagnosed with Fibromyalgia, an illness for which there is no known cause or cure; and

WHEREAS, A chronic syndrome that is increasing at alarming rates, Fibromyalgia causes debilitating fatigue and chronic pain in women, men, and children of all ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, Patients with Fibromyalgia often have to learn to live with widespread pain throughout their bodies, extreme fatigue, sleep disorders, stiffness and weakness, migraine headaches, numbness and tingling, and impairment of memory and concentration; and

WHEREAS, It often takes an average of five years to receive a diagnosis of Fibromyalgia, and medical professionals frequently are inadequately educated regarding the diagnosis and treatment of Fibromyalgia; and

WHEREAS, Increased awareness and expanded knowledge of the realities of life with Fibromyalgia will allow the community at large to better support people who struggle with the challenges of this chronic pain disorder; and

WHEREAS, A nonprofit charitable organization, the National Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Association has joined together with other groups around the country, including the International Institute For Human Empowerment, Inc., based in New York State, to promote Fibromyalgia awareness and support, including improved education, diagnosis, research and treatment; and

WHEREAS, The International Institute For Human Empowerment is the sponsor of various Fibromyalgia awareness events, as well as, the Select Empowerment Seminar report: "Fibromyalgia: Awareness, Advocacy, and Action," encouraging the medical community, patients, employers, government health and human rights agencies, educators, and caregivers, to work together to support and improve the lives of Fibromyalgia patients; and

WHEREAS, The Neurosciences Department of Albany Medical Center in Albany, New York, conducts medical research and provides continuing medical education for physicians and other healthcare providers in Fibromyalgia; and

WHEREAS, Physicians and researchers from the Neurosciences Department of Albany Medical Center, including Charles E. Argoff, M.D.; James P. Wymer, M.D., Ph.D; Frank L. Rice, Ph.D.; and Phillip J. Albrecht, Ph.D., have obtained research results for Fibromyalgia which have been recently published, and will have implications for the future treatment of Fibromyalgia; and

WHEREAS, The Neurosciences Department of Albany Medical Center will provide outreach to patients and caregivers by working with organizations such as the International Institute for Human Empowerment, Inc., to educate the community about their Fibromyalgia research results, and the potential impact for improving the quality of life for Fibromyalgia patients; and

WHEREAS, The community's focus on Fibromyalgia and its impact on patients' lives will help guarantee hope for a better future for people with Fibromyalgia; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the needs of those chronically ill people who suffer from Fibromyalgia, and urges all of our citizens to support the search for a cure and assist those individuals

and families who deal with this devastating syndrome on a daily basis; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 12-19, 2013, as Fibromyalgia Awareness Week in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; the International Institute For Human Empowerment, Inc. The Neurosciences Department of Albany Medical Center; and the National Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Association.