

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2013 as Atrial Fibrillation Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months that are set aside to increase awareness of serious illnesses 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, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2013 as Atrial Fibrillation Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Atrial fibrillation, the most common type of irregular heart-beat, consists of two types, nonvalvular AF and valvular AF; and

WHEREAS, Nonvalvular AF (NVAF), which makes up approximately 95% of AF, is estimated to affect 5.8 million people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with NVAF have five times greater risk of stroke and approximately 15% of strokes are due to NVAF; and

WHEREAS, Stroke is a prevalent cardiovascular disease and imposes a tremendous cost to victims and their families, the health care system, and society at large; and

WHEREAS, Stroke is the fourth leading cause of death as well as a leading cause of long-term disability in the United States; it accounted for 1 in every 19 deaths in 2009; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, the total cost of cardiovascular diseases in the United States was estimated to be \$444 billion; treatment of these diseases accounts for about \$1 of every \$6 spent on health care in our nation; and

WHEREAS, As the United States population ages, it is likely that the economic impact of cardiovascular diseases on our nation's health care system will become even greater; and

WHEREAS, NVAF alone is estimated to cost \$6.65 billion per year; nearly 75% of the costs of NVAF represent the direct and indirect costs associated with hospitalization; and

WHEREAS, Increased awareness and coordination among all stakeholders, including federal and state governments, providers, patient groups, medical researchers, community leaders and organizations, the public and businesses, are critical to promote the diagnosis and treatment of atrial fibrillation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2013 as Atrial Fibrillation Awareness 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.