

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October 15, 2014, Latino AIDS Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Latino AIDS Awareness Day

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are set aside to increase awareness of serious public health issues 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 October 15, 2014, Latino AIDS Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Latino AIDS Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, The last day of Hispanic Heritage Month, October 15th, has been designated as National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD); and

WHEREAS, In 2003, NLAAD was established by the Latino Commission on AIDS and the Hispanic Federation, in response to the impact of HIV and AIDS on Hispanic/Latino communities nationwide, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, NLAAD is a national community mobilization and social marketing campaign that unites the Hispanic/Latino community in efforts to raise HIV awareness, promotion of HIV testing, prevention and education, as well as other critical health issues such as Viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Tuberculosis; and

WHEREAS, In addition, NLAAD is a capacity building opportunity that aims to improve the ability of community based organizations, faith based congregations, and local health departments to provide HIV testing, prevention and education services through collaboration and partnership opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, National Latino AIDS Awareness Day has demonstrated to be an extremely successful day; NLAAD has solidified support from 450 partners who together, organized 350 events in 45 states across the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, through a partnership with OraSure Technologies, 5,000 HIV testing kits were donated to HIV certified testing sites throughout the United States, and NLAAD efforts were covered by more than 4,000 media outlets; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious public health issue, 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 memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October 15, 2014, Latino AIDS Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Latino AIDS Awareness Day; 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.