

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 27, 2014, Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Gay Men's HIV/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 September 27, 2014, Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a time to reflect on the heavy toll of HIV among gay and bisexual men and acknowledge the contributions they have made in the fight against HIV and AIDS; and

WHEREAS, Since the first cases of AIDS was reported in five gay men in 1981, gay and bisexual men across the United States have been at the center of the epidemic; and

WHEREAS, Gay and bisexual men bear the greatest burden of this disease, accounting for almost two-thirds of all new infections in 2010; they also, however, have been at the forefront of fighting this disease; many have helped shape the research agenda and worked with organizations that provide HIV services; and

WHEREAS, More than one-third of Gay and bisexual men who are HIV positive don't know it; knowing one's status and getting linked to treatment if positive are critical to protecting personal health as well as preventing the spread of this disease; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends anyone at high risk for HIV from sexual activity or injection drug use be tested at least once a year; sexually active gay men may benefit from more frequent testing, such as every 3 to 6 months; and

WHEREAS, National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day will be celebrated in cities across the United States on September 27, 2014, to educate the public on HIV/AIDS in the gay and bisexual community, as well as to promote regular testing and prevention methods; 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 September 27, 2014, Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Gay Men's HIV/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.