

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 8, 2014, Caribbean American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Caribbean American 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 June 8, 2014, Caribbean American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Caribbean American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, The annual Caribbean American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day was created to provide Caribbean Americans with resources, HIV/AIDS health education, evaluation, and opportunities for involvement; the goal is to ensure that the Caribbean Regions cultivate a health conscious atmosphere within their communities; and

WHEREAS, On June 8th, cities around the United States will sponsor diverse activities to create awareness of the state of HIV/AIDS and the health status of Caribbean Americans within their specific communities; and

WHEREAS, This day is a part of a National effort to ensure Caribbean Americans get educated, evaluated, treated and involved with their health decisions, as HIV/AIDS continues to negatively affect the Caribbean population; and

WHEREAS, A 2008 study found that an estimated 240,000 people are living with HIV in the Caribbean region, while an estimated 20,000 people newly infected and some 12,000 died of AIDS-related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, The Caribbean has been more heavily affected by HIV than any region outside sub-Saharan Africa and has the second highest level of adult HIV prevalence; the Caribbean has a mix of generalized and concentrated epidemics, and women account for about half of all infections in the Caribbean; HIV prevalence is especially high among young women; and

WHEREAS, National Caribbean American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day will be directed, planned and organized by a working group of national organizations in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the goal of this partnership is to mobilize communities and address specific issues in regard to local epidemics, health disparities and best practices that are science based and will influence the course of HIV in Caribbean American communities across our nation; 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 June 8, 2014, Caribbean American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Caribbean American 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.