

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 19, 2014, as Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Asian and Pacific Islander 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 the residents of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is moved to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 19, 2014, as Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a national mobilization effort designed to encourage people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent to get educated, get tested, get involved in prevention, and get treated for HIV and AIDS; and

WHEREAS, Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention illustrate that Asian and Pacific Islander populations have the highest rate of increase in new HIV infections in the United States, showing the only statistically significant growth among any racial or ethnic group; in fact, during the same time period studied, the rate of HIV infection declined for all other racial and ethnic groups; and

WHEREAS, Two-thirds of Asians, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders have never been tested for HIV; indeed, Asians and Pacific Islanders have the lowest HIV testing rates of all races and ethnicities, compared to rates of 37.9 percent of Whites, 57.8 percent of Blacks or African Americans, 42.7 percent of American Indian or Alaska Natives, and 42.4 percent of Hispanic/Latinos; and

WHEREAS, Low testing rates and annual increases in HIV infections mean that more Asians and Pacific Islanders are being infected with HIV; it is estimated that one in three Asians and Pacific Islanders who are living with HIV do not know it; and

WHEREAS, Although national estimates show that Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders are not greatly affected by HIV, current estimates of HIV and AIDS diagnoses among this population may be too low because of race/ethnicity misclassification, potentially masking the real impact of HIV on this population; and

WHEREAS, It is crucial that days such as National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day are observed in order to continue to raise awareness and eventually halt the spread of HIV/AIDS, not only among Asians and Pacific Islanders, but across all communities throughout the State of New York, the United States of America, and around the world; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 19, 2014, as Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Asian and Pacific Islander 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.