

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October 2014 as Anti-Bullying 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 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, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October 2014 as Anti-Bullying Awareness Month in the State of New York, as a symbol of the commitment to the year-round struggle against bullying; and

WHEREAS, The mission of Anti-Bullying Awareness Month is to "Stand UP for Character - DOWN to Bullying!"; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative to safeguard schools and communities for the children of the State of New York, and, through the recognition of the serious issues that face them each day, offer our children an environment that holds promise and security; and

WHEREAS, Many organizations, school districts, educators and parents have publicly expressed concern about the bullying of children; and

WHEREAS, Each day an estimated 160,000 children refuse to go to school because they dread the physical and verbal aggression of their peers, and the loneliness that comes from being excluded and made the target of rumors and cyber-bullying; many more students attend school in a chronic state of anxiety; and

WHEREAS, It is important that the State of New York acknowledge and heighten awareness concerning the serious issues and the negative effects of bullying, including the long-term damage it can cause in our youth as well as the risks of teenage suicide; and

WHEREAS, Providing a safe physical and emotional environment is a significant goal and a personal responsibility of each individual; and

WHEREAS, It is very important that there be greater public awareness of this serious issue, and more must be done to increase knowledge and attentiveness at both the State and local levels to support and protect our youth, our most precious resource; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October 2014 as Anti-Bullying 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.