

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October 20-26, 2013, as Hospital & Health-System Pharmacy Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with National Hospital & Health-System Pharmacy Week

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to acknowledge official weeks that are set aside to recognize the vital contributions of individuals who affect the health of the citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, National Hospital & Health-System Pharmacy Week acknowledges the invaluable contributions pharmacists and technicians make to patient care in our nation's health care institutions; and

WHEREAS, It is an ideal time for pharmacy departments to acknowledge and celebrate their achievements in ensuring safe and effective medication use in their institutions and to share those accomplishments with patients, other health professionals, and the community; and

WHEREAS, Pharmacists use National Hospital & Health-System Pharmacy Week to underscore the many new and vital roles they now play in patient care; and

WHEREAS, The evolution has been especially dramatic in recent years as pharmacists have moved beyond compounding and dispensing medications to become vital members of multidisciplinary patient-care teams; and

WHEREAS, Many consumers are not aware that pharmacists play a critical role in preventing medication errors, advising prescribers on the best drug choices, and working directly with patients to ensure they understand how to use their medications safely and effectively; and

WHEREAS, Pharmacy Week is a great way to educate the public about how pharmacists can help them get the most benefit from their medicine; and

WHEREAS, Hospital and health-system pharmacists have been able to take on enhanced patient-care roles because of a number of factors, including the deployment of highly trained, certified technicians and new technologies like robotics that dispense medications; and

WHEREAS, As technology evolves, such as the addition of machine-readable codes to medication labels, patients will have greater opportunities to have a pharmacist involved in their care; and

WHEREAS, Pharmacists are experts on the thousands of medications available today, how each one works in the body, and the ways to use each one safely and effectively; and

WHEREAS, Pharmacists who graduate today receive six years of education focused on medication therapy, and many pharmacists practicing in hospitals and health systems also complete post-graduate residency programs; they advise doctors and nurses on the best medications and monitor every patient's medication therapy and provide quality checks to detect and prevent harmful drug interactions, reactions, or mistakes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October 20-26, 2013, as Hospital & Health-System Pharmacy Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with National Hospital & Health-System Pharmacy Week; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.