

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 28, 2014, as SIDS/SUDC Awareness Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are set aside to increase awareness of serious illnesses 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 February 28, 2014, as SIDS/SUDC Awareness Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) is defined as the sudden death of an infant less than one year of age that cannot be explained after a thorough investigation is conducted, including a complete autopsy, examination of the death scene, and review of the clinical history; it is the leading cause of death among infants aged one to 12 months, and is the third leading cause overall of infant mortality in the United States; and

WHEREAS, SUDC (Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood) is the sudden and unexpected death of a child over the age of twelve months, which remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation is conducted; similar to SIDS, SUDC is a diagnosis of exclusion, given when all known and possible causes of death have been ruled out; and

WHEREAS, By definition, SIDS applies only to the death of babies younger than 12 months, while SUDC victims are past their first birthday whose deaths go unexplained even after an autopsy, a death scene investigation and medical history review; and

WHEREAS, SUDC is not new, but is rare with a reported incidence of 1.2 deaths per 100,000 children, compared to 54 deaths per 100,000 live births for SIDS (United States, 2005); presently, SUDC cannot be predicted and/or prevented since its cause is unknown, and most SUDC deaths occur between the ages of one and three, but researchers have looked at cases of children as old as 15; and

WHEREAS, Such was the case for young Ethan Gregory Spina, a perfectly healthy boy who, at two years and four months of age, with only a cold, went to bed on the night of February 27, 2013, and passed away on the morning of February 28th when he succumbed to SUDC; and

WHEREAS, The parents of Ethan Gregory Spina along with other families from different parts of Nassau and Suffolk Counties are struggling to cope with this difficult situation as they have similar stories; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious health crisis, and more must be done to increase activity at the State, local and national levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 28, 2014, as SIDS/SUDC Awareness Day 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.