

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2015 as Sickle Cell 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 September 2015 as Sickle Cell Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Sickle Cell Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, The health and welfare of the residents of New York are vital state and national concerns; and

WHEREAS, September has been designated as National Sickle Cell Awareness Month as a result of a 1983 resolution initiated by the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America and its member organizations; the resolution was introduced to the United States Congress by the Congressional Black Congress and unanimously approved by the House of Representatives on September 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Sickle Cell Disease, an inherited group of red blood cell disorders, affects an estimated 90,000 to 100,000 people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Most common in African Americans, Sickle Cell Disease also affects other ethnic populations, including those of Greek, Turkish, Italian, Hispanic, and East Indian descent; and

WHEREAS, People with Sickle Cell Disease begin developing symptoms during the first year of life, usually around five months of age, and symptoms and complications differ for each person and can range from mild to severe; and

WHEREAS, The "sickle cells," or abnormally shaped red blood cells, become trapped in small blood vessels and block the flow of blood and oxygen to organs in the body, causing repeated episodes of severe pain, organ damage, serious infection, or even stroke; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious health issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and national levels to support those directly affected as well as their families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2015 as Sickle Cell 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.