

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 31, 2016, as World No Tobacco Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, World No Tobacco Day is observed around the world every year on May 31st; it is meant to encourage a 24-hour period of abstinence from all forms of tobacco consumption across the globe; the day is further intended to draw global attention to the widespread prevalence of tobacco use and to negative health effects, which currently lead to 5.4 million deaths worldwide annually; and

WHEREAS, World No Tobacco Day is sponsored by the World Health Organization to call worldwide attention to the impact of tobacco use on the public health and has been observed annually since 1988 throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization estimates that there are more than 1.1 billion smokers in the world, about one-third of the global population aged 15 years and older; and

WHEREAS, Short-term health risks of tobacco use include shortness of breath, increased heart rate, exacerbation of asthma, impotence, infertility and increased blood levels of carbon monoxide; long-term health risks caused by tobacco use include heart attack, stroke, cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; and

WHEREAS, Second-hand smoke is an established cause of lung cancer in non-smokers, and exposure to second-hand smoke in the home is a significant cause of respiratory ailments in children, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome; and

WHEREAS, As of 1991, over 90 percent of the United States population, regardless of smoking status, had measurable amounts of a by-product of cigarette smoke in their bodies -- indicating the exposure to second-hand smoke was massive; significant progress has been made since then in reducing these exposures, primarily through State and local regulations and voluntary policy changes by employers; and

WHEREAS, World Tobacco Day 2016 is calling on countries to work together to end the illicit trade of tobacco products; from many angles, the illicit trade of tobacco products is a major global concern, including health, legal and economic, governance and corruption; and

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 31, 2016, as World No Tobacco Day in the State of New York, and to encourage all of its citizens to participate by not starting to smoke, by attempting to stop, and by encouraging others to do the same; 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.