

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim January 31, 2016, as Omphalocele Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Omphalocele Awareness Day

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are set aside to increase awareness of serious health 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 January 31, 2016, as Omphalocele Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Omphalocele Awareness Day as part of the Birth Defects Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, An omphalocele is a birth defect that occurs early in pregnancy in which the abdominal wall does not close properly and some or most of the abdominal organs protrude on the outside of the fetus' body through the umbilical cord; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that a small omphalocele occurs in about 1 out of every 5,000 pregnancies and a large or giant omphalocele occurs in about 1 out of every 10,000 pregnancies; and

WHEREAS, An omphalocele may be isolated or may be associated with other defects or chromosomal abnormalities; and

WHEREAS, Despite the challenges a baby born with an omphalocele may face, many babies who are born with an omphalocele survive and go on to live happy, healthy lives; and

WHEREAS, Mothers of Omphaloceles (MOO) is a group of over 1,400 parents from around the world that was created to provide hope, support and information to families with babies diagnosed with an omphalocele; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize MOO for their courageous efforts to advocate for their children and raise awareness that an omphalocele is a treatable condition; 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 State, local and national levels to support the patients, 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 January 31, 2016, as Omphalocele Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Omphalocele Awareness Day; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, and Mothers of Omphaloceles.