LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 3, 2016, as Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, As part of executing its mission, the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence seeks to eradicate domestic violence and to ensure the provision of effective and appropriate services to victims of domestic violence through community outreach, education, training, technical assistance and policy development; and

WHEREAS, The Coalition's principles and practices prioritize the safety and concerns of victims who are abused, provide support and encouragement for the participation of victims who are abused in the struggle to eradicate personal and institutional violence against them, and provide for a noncompetitive atmosphere that fosters open communication, respect, and cooperation among advocates and victims who are abused; and

WHEREAS, Approximately one in four women and one in seven men in the United States will experience physical domestic violence at some point in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States - more than 12 million women and men over the course of a year; and

WHEREAS, Females who are 20-24 years of age are at the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence victims experience a host of health and mental health-related consequences at far greater rates than their counterparts who have not been abused; and

WHEREAS, New York State has the greatest demand for domestic violence support services in the country; and

WHEREAS, The NYS Office of Children and Family Services reported that over 55,000 survivors of domestic violence and their children received services from residential, non-residential, and transitional housing programs licensed by OCFS, and nearly 186,000 hotline calls were received by domestic violence programs across the state in 2014; and

WHEREAS, The economic burden of domestic violence in the United States is over $8.3 billion per year in direct medical costs and loss of productivity; and

WHEREAS, 15.5 million children in the United States live in families in which domestic violence occurred at least once in the past year, and 7 million children live in families in which severe domestic violence occurred; and

WHEREAS, According to the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, there were 123 domestic homicides in New York State in 2014; and

WHEREAS, The cost of a single homicide can range over $17.25 million when considering medical care costs, lost future earnings, public program costs, property damage and losses, and quality of life losses; and

WHEREAS, Only approximately one-quarter of all physical assaults, one-fifth of all rapes, and one-half of all stalking incidents perpetrated against women by intimate partners are reported to the police; and

WHEREAS, The damage caused by domestic violence is not limited by gender, age, ethnicity or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, Education and awareness campaigns have the potential to not only increase identification of domestic violence and the appropriate response from helping professionals and the public, but when used in a primary prevention framework, can also act as a catalyst to change

social and community norms that can prevent it from happening in the first place; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 3, 2016, as Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Day in the State of New York; 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 the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence.