

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 2016 as Oral Health 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 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 February 2016 as Oral Health Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Oral Health Awareness Month recognizes the importance of oral health as a part of overall health and supporting efforts to improve the oral health of all in New York State; and

WHEREAS, Oral health is a critical component of overall health affecting speech, nutrition, growth and function, social development, employability and productivity, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Prevention Agenda 2013-17: New York State's Health Improvement Plan, and the New York State Oral Health Plan identifies dental caries, or tooth decay, as the most common chronic disease among children; and

WHEREAS, Goal No. 5 under Child Health in the State's Health Improvement Plan proposes to reduce prevalence of dental caries among New York State children by 10% by year 2017, by achieving specific objectives that promote awareness and access to care for children; and

WHEREAS, Untreated dental disease is linked to adverse health outcomes associated with diabetes, stroke, heart disease, bacterial pneumonia, preterm and low birth weight deliveries, and in some instances, death; and

WHEREAS, Nationally, employed adults lose more than 164 million hours of work each year and students miss more than 51 million hours of school due to dental disease or dental visits; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 3.4 million New York children will experience tooth decay by high school graduation; and

WHEREAS, Access to dental care is associated with higher utilization of preventive and restorative dental services; and

WHEREAS, New York State residents deserve access to high-quality oral health care; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this health issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, state and national levels to improve health and healthcare outcomes for those affected by dental disease; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 2016 as Oral Health 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.