

BY: Senator PARKER

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 18, 2017, as Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize official days set aside to increase awareness of serious issues which affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 18, 2017, as Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body would like to take this moment to remember all those who lost the battle to opioids, and those who are courageously battling this disorder in recovery; and

WHEREAS, Every day men, women and children across New York State suffer from the pain and trauma of prescription opioid and heroin addiction from misuse of prescription opioid medications to the increasing amount of drug overdoses relating to heroin, opioid, and fentanyl substances; and

WHEREAS, The prescription opioid and heroin epidemic cannot be ignored as the amount of fatal overdoses in the State of New York has reached a record high of over 1,000 individuals in 2016, which is a 23 percent increase in overdoses over the past two years; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious epidemic, and more must be done to increase activity and knowledge at the local, state, and national levels to educate, support and protect those afflicted as well as their families and caregivers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 18, 2017, as Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Day; 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.