

Senate Resolution No. 1972

**BY:** Senator HANNON

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim  
May 14-20, 2017, as Food Allergy Awareness Week in  
the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** Food allergies affect 4% of the population and cause an estimated 50,000 to 125,000 emergency room visits each year in the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** Fifteen million Americans have food allergies, of six million are children under the age of 18, and research shows that the prevalence of food allergy is increasing among children; and

**WHEREAS,** Children with allergies are two to four times as likely to have other allergic conditions, such as asthma or eczema; approximately 30% of children with food allergies are allergic to more than one food, and 40% of children with food allergies have experienced a severe allergic reaction such as anaphylaxis; and

**WHEREAS,** The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the prevalence of food allergies in children has increased by 50% between 1997 and 2011; and

**WHEREAS,** Eight major food allergens cause most of all food allergy reactions in the United States: shellfish, fish, milk, eggs, tree nuts, peanuts, soy, and wheat; symptoms of a food-allergic reaction can include hives, vomiting, diarrhea, respiratory distress, and swelling of the throat; and

**WHEREAS,** Reactions typically occur when an individual unknowingly eats a food containing an ingredient to which they are allergic; and

**WHEREAS,** Each year, 200,000 people in the United States require emergency medical care for allergic reactions to food; and

**WHEREAS,** While most food allergies arise in childhood, at least 15% of food allergies are first diagnosed in adulthood; serious or fatal reactions can happen at any time, however teenagers and young adults with food allergies are at the highest risk of fatal food-induced anaphylaxis; and

**WHEREAS,** There is no cure for food allergy, and scientists do not understand why; strict avoidance of the offending food is the only way to prevent an allergic reaction; once a serious allergic reaction begins, the only effective treatment is epinephrine; and

**WHEREAS,** Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body, representing the people of the State of New York, supports the increase in public awareness regarding food

allergies and anaphylaxis; it is important to help educate schools, restaurants and all citizens of the State of New York of the serious and potentially life-threatening nature of food allergies; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 14-20, 2017, as Food Allergy Awareness Week 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.