

**BY:** Senator SEWARD

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim  
November 2017 as COPD 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 serious illnesses that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

**WHEREAS,** Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a term used to describe airflow obstruction that is associated mainly with emphysema and chronic bronchitis; and

**WHEREAS,** There are indications that COPD is being underdiagnosed as an estimated 24 million people have evidence of impaired lung function, and COPD kills more than 120,000 Americans every year; on average, one person dies from COPD every 4 minutes; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2010, the National Center for Health Statistics released a report stating that in 2008 COPD became the third leading cause of death in the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** Pulmonary experts predict that, by the year 2020, COPD will become the third leading cause of death worldwide; and

**WHEREAS,** Currently, COPD accounts for 1.5 million emergency room visits, 715,000 hospitalizations, and 8 million physician office and hospital outpatient visits, all of which are a detriment to the U.S. economy; COPD costs the nation an estimated \$49.9 billion in direct and indirect medical costs annually; and

**WHEREAS,** Smoking is the primary risk factor for COPD; approximately 85 to 90 percent of COPD deaths are caused by smoking; and

**WHEREAS,** COPD affects almost 650,000 citizens of the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Coordinated community efforts, such as the New York COPD Coalition, a public-private partnership of individuals and organizations that created the New York COPD Action Plan, can result in dramatic improvements to public health and reduced healthcare costs; and

**WHEREAS,** Research has identified a hereditary protein deficiency called Alpha-1 Antitrypsin; people with this deficiency tend to develop COPD, even without exposure to smoking or environmental triggers; and

**WHEREAS,** There is currently no cure for COPD; spirometry testing and medical treatments exist to address symptom relief and possibly slow the progression of the disease; and

**WHEREAS,** Until there is a cure, the best approaches to preventing

COPD and its considerable health, societal, and mortality impacts lie with education, awareness, and expanded delivery of detection and management protocols; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 2017 as COPD 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.