

BY: Senator COMRIE

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 16-19, 2018, as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those exemplary institutions of higher education within our great Nation which preserve the heritage of African Americans and for their enduring commitment to the pursuit of academic excellence; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 16-19, 2018, as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observation of National HBCU Week; and

WHEREAS, HBCUs are institutions of higher education in the United States that were established before the Civil Rights Act of 1964, with the intention of primarily serving the African-American community; today, there are 101 HBCUs in the United States, including public and private institutions.

WHEREAS, HBCUs continue a proud tradition as vibrant centers of intellectual inquiry and engines of scientific discovery and innovation; new waves of students, faculty, and alumni are building on their rich legacies and helping America achieve our goal of once again leading the world in having the highest proportion of college graduates by 2020; and

WHEREAS, The Annual HBCUs Week Conference is planned under the leadership of the White House Initiative on HBCUs and with input from the President's Board of Advisors on HBCUs and its conference sponsors; it provides a forum to exchange information and share innovations among and between institutions; and

WHEREAS, Stakeholders, which include: federal agencies, private sector companies and philanthropic organizations, provide an overview of successful engagements that if replicated could improve instruction, degree completion and the understanding of federal policies that shape and support higher education; and

WHEREAS, For almost 200 years, HBCUs have been defined by unparalleled standards of learning and have produced countless leaders throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, With great admiration, this Legislative Body is proud to pay tribute to these colleges and universities which stand at the threshold of the future with their legacy of outstanding achievements and their impressive body of distinguished alumni; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 16-19, 2018, as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) 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.