

BY: Senator PARKER

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2017, as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Individuals with developmental disabilities live, work, and volunteer in every neighborhood of this great Empire State; they are family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, teammates and classmates; and

WHEREAS, The communities of New York State are strongest when every resident is fully able to share his or her gifts and talents; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2017, as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, President Ronald Reagan first proclaimed the month of March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and called upon Americans everywhere to provide the encouragement and opportunities necessary so that people with developmental disabilities can reach their highest potential; and

WHEREAS, Despite the many positive changes in societal attitude, workplace and educational culture, health care, available resources, and knowledge concerning people with developmental disabilities, much remains to be done to address the prevalence of negative stereotypes, lingering misinformation, and subsequent discrimination and barriers some of these vulnerable citizens face; and

WHEREAS, During Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, New Yorkers are encouraged to recognize the abilities of all people, and to take time to get to know some of the 300,000 New Yorkers with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, It is crucial that individuals with developmental disabilities have access to the resources which allow them to live secure, fulfilling lives, including education, housing, employment, and recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, Opportunities for citizens with developmental disabilities to live as independently and productively as possible must be fostered throughout New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2017, as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in the State of New York, in

conjunction with the observance of National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month; 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.