

BY: M. of A. Steck

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 2017, as Oral Health 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 health issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 2017, as Oral Health Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Oral Health Awareness Month recognizes the importance of oral health as a part of overall health and supporting efforts to improve the oral health of all in New York State; and

WHEREAS, Oral health is a critical component of overall health affecting speech, nutrition, growth and function, social development, employability and productivity, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Prevention Agenda 2013-18: New York State's Health Improvement Plan, and the New York State Oral Health Plan identifies dental caries, or tooth decay, as the most common chronic disease among children; and

WHEREAS, By December 31, 2018, Goal No. 5 under Child Health in the State's Health Improvement Plan proposes to reduce prevalence of dental caries among New York State children by 10%; increase the proportion of NYS children who have protective dental sealants by 10%; increase the proportion of NYS children who receive regular dental care visits by 10%; increase the proportion of NYS population receiving fluoridated water by 10%; and strengthen systems to improve the oral health of people with special health needs; and

WHEREAS, By 2020, Goal No. 3 of the 2014 NYS Oral Health Plan proposes to eliminate oral health disparities and improve access to high quality, comprehensive, continuous oral health services for all New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Untreated dental disease is linked to adverse health outcomes associated with diabetes, stroke, heart disease, bacterial pneumonia, preterm and low birth weight deliveries, and in some instances, death; and

WHEREAS, In NYS, approximately 44% of children experience tooth decay by the third grade, and approximately 3.4 million New York children will experience tooth decay by high school graduation; and

WHEREAS, Nationally, 18% of all children's health expenditures are

devoted to dental care; and

WHEREAS, Access to dental care is associated with higher utilization of preventive and restorative dental services; and

WHEREAS, New York State residents deserve access to high-quality oral health care; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this health issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, state and national levels to improve health and healthcare outcomes for those affected by dental disease; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 2017, as Oral Health 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.