

Assembly Resolution No. 163

BY: M. of A. Gunther

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 16-22, 2017, as Osteopathic Medicine Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Osteopathic Medicine Week

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 16-22, 2017, as Osteopathic Medicine Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Osteopathic Medicine Week, and to pay tribute to the osteopathic physicians of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, There are currently close to 130,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students in the United States; this figure includes a growing number of women and minorities; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, approximately one in four U.S. medical students attended an osteopathic medical school; and

WHEREAS, DOs have made tremendous contributions to the American health care system since the Osteopathic Medical Profession was founded by Andrew Taylor Still, MD, DO, in 1874; and

WHEREAS, DOs have treated U.S. presidents and Olympic athletes, contributed to the fight against AIDS and the fight for civil rights, and have served on nationwide health care panels; and

WHEREAS, DOs are fully-licensed to prescribe medicine and practice in all specialty areas of medicine, including surgery; and

WHEREAS, DOs are trained to consider the health of the whole person and use their hands to help diagnose and treat their patients; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 10% of all patient visits in the United States are to osteopathic physicians who provide comprehensive medical care including primary care, specialty care, preventive medicine, diagnoses and the appropriate use of medication, surgery, manipulation and hospital referral, often practicing in rural and urban medically underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, New York State has more than 6,000 licensed osteopathic physicians, representing the fourth largest osteopathic physician population in the country; these valued doctors are dedicated to improving the health of their communities through education and advocacy, as well as by delivering quality health services; and

WHEREAS, New York State has two colleges of osteopathic medicine, The New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) College of Osteopathic Medicine in Old Westbury and the Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, New York, with campuses in Harlem and Middletown, all of which train students who enter primary care specialties in numbers well above the

national average; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the need for osteopathic physicians who are committed to bringing attention to improving the health of Americans, regardless of age, income level, or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, Osteopathic physicians deserve acknowledgment for providing high-quality, comprehensive care to New Yorkers across our state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 16-22, 2017, as Osteopathic Medicine Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Osteopathic Medicine Week in appreciation to osteopathic physicians for their contributions to health care; 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.