

BY: M. of A. Kearns

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim
January 2017 as Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Awareness
Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that is produced whenever any fuel such as natural gas, propane, gasoline, oil, kerosene, wood or charcoal is burned; devices that produce carbon monoxide include cars, boats, gasoline engines, stoves and heating systems; carbon monoxide from these sources can build up in enclosed or semi-enclosed spaces; and

WHEREAS, Often called the silent killer because if early signs are ignored, a person may lose consciousness and be unable to escape the danger; carbon monoxide is the most common cause of poisoning death in the United States and is responsible for about 500 deaths and 15,000 visits to the emergency room annually; and

WHEREAS, When people inhale carbon monoxide, the toxic gas enters the bloodstream and blocks oxygen from being absorbed into the body, which can damage tissues and even result in death; older adults over 65 years of age are especially vulnerable to unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning due to their high frequency of pre-existing medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, For most people, the first signs of exposure to low concentrations of carbon monoxide include mild headache and breathlessness upon moderate exercise; continued or acute exposure can lead to flu-like symptoms including more severe headaches, dizziness, tiredness, nausea, confusion, irritability, and impaired judgment, memory and coordination; and

WHEREAS, Breathing low concentrations of carbon monoxide may not result in obvious symptoms of poisoning, but may cause long-term health damage, even after the exposure to the gas is removed; and

WHEREAS, On January 17, 2009, a junior at West Seneca Senior High School and a member of the swim team, Amanda J. Hansen succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning after sleeping near a malfunctioning basement boiler during a sleepover party; and

WHEREAS, To bring something positive out of this tragedy, Ken and Kim Hansen established the Amanda J. Hansen Foundation in honor of their daughter to raise money for a scholarship fund and to promote the dangers of carbon monoxide and the importance of using detectors in residences; and

WHEREAS, As of February 22, 2010, Amanda's Law took effect in the State of New York, requiring the mandatory installation of operable carbon monoxide detectors in every home throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the critical importance of educating the public about the dangers of carbon monoxide and the need to use carbon monoxide detectors in their homes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim January 2017 as Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Awareness Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, West Seneca Senior High School, and the family of Amanda J. Hansen.