

BY: M. of A. Skoufis

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim
March 2018, as Myeloma Action 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 serious illnesses 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, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2018, as Myeloma Action Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Multiple myeloma (or myeloma) is a cancer of plasma cells in the bone marrow and is called "multiple" because it can occur at various sites in the body; and

WHEREAS, Multiple myeloma causes a variety of adverse health effects, including a weakened immune system, anemia, kidney damage, and bone deterioration; and

WHEREAS, Multiple myeloma is the second most common blood cancer worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Currently, multiple myeloma affects more than 100,000 people in the United States, with about 30,330 new cases diagnosed and 12,650 deaths from the disease in 2016 according to the National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program; and

WHEREAS, Once predominantly found in those 65 years old and over, where it continues to be most frequently diagnosed, multiple myeloma is increasingly being identified in younger individuals including those in their 30s, 40s and 50s; and

WHEREAS, Multiple myeloma is almost twice as likely to occur among African-Americans and is one of the leading causes of cancer deaths among them, with scientific understanding of the disparity remaining unknown; and

WHEREAS, The cause of multiple myeloma is not known, with robust research being performed in the United States and internationally into potential genetic, environmental, and other risk factors; and

WHEREAS, Additional new drugs and therapies are in the research phase, with patient enrollment in clinical trials playing an important role in determining safe and effective treatments; and

WHEREAS, Understanding and treatment of multiple myeloma has been greatly furthered by the role of advocacy initiatives promoting awareness, education, research, peer review, and collaboration and such

efforts are to be highly commended; and

WHEREAS, Greater awareness of multiple myeloma on the part of clinicians and the general public can lead to earlier detection and treatment, improving health outcomes and bringing comfort to patients and their families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2018, as Myeloma Action 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.