

BY: Senator RIVERA

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim
October 2019, as Dyslexia Awareness Month in the
State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the State of New York is committed to equal educational opportunities by identifying obstacles to educational advancement and helping to remove those obstacles; and

WHEREAS, Dyslexia, often inherited, is a language-based learning disability that is neurological in origin which interferes with language processing, accurate and/or fluent word recognition, spelling and decoding abilities and reading comprehension despite average or above average intelligence; and

WHEREAS, Dyslexia varies in severity ranging from mild to profound and is characterized by a combination of difficulties in reading, writing, spelling, handwriting and/or math which can create a wide gap between an individual's intellectual ability and their academic and/or personal achievement; and

WHEREAS, Dyslexia is identifiable as early as 4-6 years of age and early intervention is beneficial as the negative consequences are highly preventable through effective, direct instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension; and

WHEREAS, Dyslexia can affect anyone, regardless of race, gender, culture or socioeconomic status and impacts up to 20% of the population; and

WHEREAS, Literacy skills for everyone is an important goal for the State of New York and dyslexia affects a high percentage of our struggling readers, and it is important that we learn to recognize and to address this learning difference so that each person in New York has the opportunity to be able to learn, read and spell proficiently and reach their full potential; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October 2019, as Dyslexia 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; and the "Decoding Dyslexia -- NY" Board of Directors.