

BY: M. of A. Hevesi

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim January 11, 2020, as Wear Blue Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days and months that are set aside to increase awareness of serious 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, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim January 11, 2020, as Wear Blue Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, Blue Campaign is a national public awareness campaign designed to educate the public, law enforcement and other industry partners to recognize the indicators of human trafficking, and how to appropriately respond to possible cases; and

WHEREAS, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is recognized each year on January 11th; in recognition of this important day, Blue Campaign hosts a social media campaign called Wear Blue Day; and

WHEREAS, To raise awareness of human trafficking, New Yorkers are encouraged to take photos of themselves, friends, family, and colleagues wearing blue clothing and share them on social media, along with the Wear Blue Day hashtag; and

WHEREAS, In addition, they can share a video explaining why they are participating in the Wear Blue Day, organize a Challenge such as a creative photo competition, light up a landmark, or host an event and encourage participants to wear blue; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, an interagency task force was created which was dedicated to evaluating the current circumstances of the existence of human trafficking in the State of New York, with the lasting resolve to bolster existing response infrastructures, while creating strategies to aid victims and increase public awareness of the issue, including and beyond the recognition of Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, Beginning in 2010, by Presidential Proclamation, each January has been designated as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, Following the start of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, with the help of non-government

organizations, National Human Trafficking Day began and is observed annually on January 11th; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York, was, in 2018, the state fourth-most plagued by the scourge of sexual and labor trafficking of individuals of all ages, as recognized by the Polaris Project, a leading non-government, non-profit voice in the global march towards the eradication of human trafficking, which equates with modern slavery; and

WHEREAS, The number of sexual and labor trafficking cases reported each year continues to grow as more light is given to the issue by various actors in New York, across the United States, and around the globe; and

WHEREAS, In 2018, 492 cases of human trafficking were reported to the Human Trafficking Hotline in the State of New York, which is more than 4% of the 10,949 cases reported across the United States; and

WHEREAS, The scope and magnitude of the issue of slavery and human trafficking is yet to be known, both domestically and abroad; and

WHEREAS, Human Trafficking Awareness Month was implemented to raise awareness among Americans that human trafficking does not just happen in other countries, but in states and communities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious issue, and more must be done to eradicate slavery and human trafficking at the local, State and national levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim January 11, 2020, as Wear Blue Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month; 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.