

BY: Senator REICHLIN-MELNICK

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
May 2022, as Jewish Empowerment Month in the State
of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations which foster religious pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities 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 Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 2022, as Jewish Empowerment Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, For millennia, the Jewish people have sustained their shared religious, cultural, and ethnic identity and traditions in the face of enslavement, persecution, genocide, segregation and discrimination, and all manner of adversity; and

WHEREAS, Ever since the first Jew set foot in New Amsterdam in 1654, members of the Jewish community have made indelible contributions to the culture, history, and social fabric of New York State and the United States of America, strengthening the country and helping shape all areas of American life; and

WHEREAS, The belief in the greatness of the American way of life, the freedoms enshrined in American law and jurisprudence, and the opportunities sustained by American democracy drew generations of Jewish immigrants to America, including Jews fleeing persecution and pogroms in Europe and the Middle East, Holocaust survivors, and Jews trapped behind the Iron Curtain; and

WHEREAS, This history encouraged many Jews to become leading proponents and supporters of the civil rights movement, marching shoulder to shoulder with African Americans and others, united in support for equal rights, equal protection under the law, and the recognition and respect of human dignity; and

WHEREAS, The Jewish community has prominently participated in virtually every civil rights effort in the American experience, fighting against discrimination and bigotry in all its forms and demanding the equal rights of every member of society; and

WHEREAS, On April 20, 2006, President Bush proclaimed the month of May as Jewish American Heritage Month, following resolutions that unanimously passed the House of Representatives in December 2005 and the Senate in February 2006; and

WHEREAS, Despite the proclamation and resolutions, and despite the

advances made in promoting social justice for other minority groups, the Jewish community has continued to be subjected to antisemitism and Jew-hatred, including discrimination in the workplace, at school, and in society; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this antisemitism and Jew-hatred has manifested in the workplace, on campuses, and in society, expressing itself as both discrimination and violence targeting Jews for their identity and seeking to deny their shared identity, including their indigenous connection to their ancestral homeland; and

WHEREAS, Hate crimes directed against the Jewish community have skyrocketed in recent years, inspiring the formation of a grassroots End Jew Hatred civil rights movement to alter public discourse and make Jew-hatred unacceptable in contemporary society, empowering Jews with positivity and strength to discover and enjoy their heritage in whichever manner they choose, without fear of attack or persecution; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York expresses appreciation, gratitude, and admiration for the substantial contributions made to the State of New York and the United States of America by members of the Jewish community; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York condemns Jew-hatred in all its forms and stands resolute to end the discrimination and persecution affecting the Jewish community; it shares an obligation to condemn and combat Jew-hatred in all its forms; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body memorializes Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 2022 as Jewish Empowerment Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be sent to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.