

Senate Resolution No. 2633

BY: Senator SERINO

COMMENDING Delaney Dixon for her innovative approach to addressing the Lyme and tick-borne disease crisis

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend individuals in New York State for remarkable acts and achievements; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Delaney Dixon for her efforts in the development of a prototype, dubbed the "Tick Stik," to help individuals check for, and remove, ticks; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that approximately 476,000 patients are diagnosed with and treated for Lyme disease in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, New York State is at the epicenter of the Lyme and tick-borne disease epidemic, and ranks second in the nation for confirmed cases of Lyme disease, according to the most recent statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, Historically, cases of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases in New York have been largely concentrated in the Hudson Valley and Long Island, these illnesses have been rapidly spreading across the state; and

WHEREAS, Lyme and other tick-borne diseases can be difficult to diagnose because many of the most common symptoms are similar to those of other illnesses, including COVID-19, which can often lead to a misdiagnosis; and

WHEREAS, As more and more New Yorkers are spending time outdoors and potentially facing increased risks of exposure to ticks, the need to take proactive steps to prevent contracting Lyme and other tick-borne diseases is all the more critical, especially for those who may be unfamiliar with the threat posed by ticks; and

WHEREAS, Delaney Dixon previously contracted Lyme disease from an undetected tick bite, which caused fever, rashes, and pains throughout her body, and although a two-week course of an antibiotic treated her Lyme disease, the ordeal left her with strong feelings of anxiety over concerns of once again being bitten by a tick; and

WHEREAS, Delaney, who is currently a sixth-grade student at Windsor Central Middle School, wanted to help others protect themselves from ticks by creating a more convenient and comfortable way to check for ticks; and

WHEREAS, With the help of her father, Chris Dixon, and later, mechanical engineering students at Binghamton University, she developed a bendable tool that utilizes an HD camera and a built-in tool to remove ticks; and

WHEREAS, Delaney has shown a remarkable sense of design and engineering, especially for someone her age, and has utilized her talents in a way that can potentially help countless others from suffering the same experience with Lyme and other tick-borne diseases as she faced; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Delaney Dixon for her innovative approach to addressing the Lyme and tick-borne disease crisis; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Delaney Dixon.