

**BY:** Senator RITCHIE

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim the month of May 2022 as Williams Syndrome Awareness 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 issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May of 2022 as Williams Syndrome Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Williams Syndrome (WS) is a genetic condition, present at birth that can affect anyone and is characterized by medical issues, including cardiovascular disease, developmental delays, and learning disabilities; these medical conditions often occur side by side with striking verbal abilities, highly social personalities and an affinity for music; and

**WHEREAS,** It is estimated that Williams Syndrome impacts one in every 10,000 people worldwide, including as many as 30,000 in the United States; it is known to occur equally in both males and females and in every culture; and

**WHEREAS,** As children with Williams Syndrome grow, many struggle with things like spatial relations, numbers, and abstract reasoning, which can make daily tasks a challenge; and

**WHEREAS,** In adulthood, individuals with Williams Syndrome will often need supportive housing and other resources to reach their fullest potential; and with these supports, they can contribute greatly to their communities as volunteers or paid employees in a wide variety of fields; and

**WHEREAS,** Founded in 1982, The Williams Syndrome Association provides support to individuals with Williams Syndrome, as well as their families, connecting them with professionals and others who can assist them in coping with the condition; and

**WHEREAS,** Through this organization's efforts: from raising public awareness, to funding critical new research, and providing valuable information and support to families, The Williams Syndrome Association has improved the quality of life and futures of those affected by Williams Syndrome; and

**WHEREAS,** The Williams Syndrome Association, along with the families and friends of those with Williams Syndrome are to be commended for their hard work, compassion and dedication to educating the country about this rare disorder; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May of 2022 as Williams Syndrome Awareness 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 Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.