

BY: Senator SALAZAR

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim
May 11, 2021, as Domestic Violence Awareness and
Prevention Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, As part of executing its mission, the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence seeks to create and support the social change necessary to prevent and confront all forms of domestic violence and to ensure the availability and accessibility of innovative and effective supports and services for all domestic violence survivors and their families; and

WHEREAS, The Coalition's principles and practices prioritize the safety, needs and concerns of domestic violence survivors, provide support and encouragement for the participation of survivors in the struggle to eradicate personal and institutional violence against them, and recognize that communities must work together to dismantle oppression, end systemic racism, and uproot the inequities that foster violence; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive behavior and tactics used by someone against their intimate partner in an attempt to gain or maintain power and control, and types of abuse can include physical, sexual, psychological, technological and economic abuse; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is not limited to specific groups based on race, socioeconomic status, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, religious affiliation or social location, but rather is perpetrated by abusers from all social groups; and

WHEREAS, Approximately one in three women and one in four men in the United States have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, On average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States -- more than 12 million women and men over the course of a year; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence survivors experience a host of health- and mental health-related consequences at far greater rates than their counterparts who have not been abused; and

WHEREAS, New York State consistently has the greatest demand for domestic violence support services in the country with 8,313 survivors requesting services on just one day in 2020, and 1,921 unfulfilled service requests because domestic violence service providers did not have the resources to provide such services; and

WHEREAS, The NYS Office of Children and Family Services reported that more than 53,300 survivors of domestic violence and their children

received services from residential, non-residential, and transitional housing programs licensed by OCFS, and more than 312,700 hotline calls were received by domestic violence programs across the State in 2019; and

WHEREAS, According to the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, there were 65 intimate partner homicides in New York State in 2019, a 10 percent increase from the year before; and

WHEREAS, Only approximately one-quarter of all physical assaults, one-fifth of all rapes, and one-half of all stalking incidents perpetrated against women by intimate partners are reported to the police; and

WHEREAS, The economic burden of domestic violence in the United States is nearly \$3.6 trillion over victims' lifetimes, based on 43 million U.S. adults with victimization history, including \$2.1 trillion in medical costs, \$1.3 trillion in lost productivity among victims and perpetrators, \$73 billion in criminal justice activities and \$62 billion in other costs; and

WHEREAS, The cost of a single homicide is estimated at \$17.25 million when considering medical care, lost future earnings, other related public programming and services, and property damage and other losses; and

WHEREAS, Researchers estimate that between 3.3 million and 10 million children are exposed to adult domestic violence each year, and children who witness domestic violence suffer many adverse outcomes during their childhood that can extend into their adult years, including chronic disease, substance use and chemical dependency, dropping out of school, and employment and relationship challenges; and

WHEREAS, Primary prevention strategies address the root causes and conditions that make domestic violence possible, and public health research has shown that implementing prevention activities at multiple levels on the social ecology scale - individual, relationship, community, and societal - will lead to lasting social change; and

WHEREAS, Primary prevention is focused on establishing gender equality, cultivating and promoting healthy relationship behaviors, and changing conditions in our communities and culture to stop domestic violence before it starts; and

WHEREAS, Primary prevention education and awareness campaigns and strategies have the potential to increase the identification of domestic, dating and sexual violence, ensure appropriate and consistent responses from helping professionals and the general public, and act as a powerful catalyst to change social and community norms that foster healthy relationship behaviors promoting respect and equity; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence advocates consistently provide comprehensive and compassionate life-saving services, advocacy, and support to survivors of domestic violence despite being historically

undervalued for the work that they do; and

WHEREAS, As essential, frontline workers, New York's domestic violence advocates transitioned quickly during the COVID-19 Pandemic to provide remote advocacy services, re-direct funding for the purchase of Pandemic-related supplies and new technologies, re-train staff and modify emergency shelter facilities and protocols to comply with health regulations for isolation and quarantine, to ensure the continuity of services for all domestic violence survivors; and

WHEREAS, New York State needs to continually and significantly invest in New York's domestic violence service delivery system in order to meet the rising demand for services and to continue progress toward ending domestic violence once and for all; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 11, 2021, as Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Day 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 New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence.