

Assembly Resolution No. 333

BY: M. of A. Cusick

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 5-11, 2021, as Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Week in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official weeks that are set aside to increase awareness of serious illnesses 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 September 5-11, 2021, as Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Week; and

**WHEREAS,** Duchenne muscular dystrophy is the most common fatal genetic disorder diagnosed in childhood, affecting approximately one in every 3,500 live male births (about 20,000 new cases each year worldwide); since the Duchenne gene is found on the X-chromosome, it primarily affects boys, however, it occurs across all races and cultures; and

**WHEREAS,** Duchenne muscular dystrophy results in progressive loss of strength and is caused by a mutation in the gene that encodes for dystrophin; since dystrophin is absent, the muscle cells are easily damaged; and

**WHEREAS,** The progressive muscle weakness leads to serious medical problems, particularly issues relating to the heart and lungs; young men with this debilitating disease typically live into their late twenties; and

**WHEREAS,** Becker muscular dystrophy, which is less severe than Duchenne muscular dystrophy, occurs when dystrophin is manufactured, but not in the normal folin or amount; and

**WHEREAS,** Duchenne muscular dystrophy can be passed from parent to child, but approximately 35% of cases occur because of a random spontaneous mutation; in other words, it can affect anyone; and

**WHEREAS,** Although there are medical treatments that may help slow its progression, there is currently no cure for Duchenne muscular dystrophy; and

**WHEREAS,** Jar of Hope's mission is to find a cure through accelerated research, call for action in Washington D.C., demand optimal care for all young men, and educate the global community; and

**WHEREAS,** Scientists around the globe are conducting intense research to understand what causes muscle dysfunction in Duchenne muscular

dystrophy and to apply that understanding to the development of effective treatments; and

**WHEREAS**, National Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Week will highlight the importance of identifying and communicating early signs of this genetic disorder which is the key to early diagnosis; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 5-11, 2021, as Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Week 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 Jar of Hope.