

BY: M. of A. Stirpe

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
May 1-7, 2022, as Small Business Week in the State
of New York

WHEREAS, Small businesses of all kinds, from restaurants and local farms to hair salons and bike shops to tech firms and landscapers, are crucial to the health of individual communities and to the state's economy overall, but have been greatly tested during these past two difficult years; and

WHEREAS, Prior to March 2020, when New York State declared a state of emergency because of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 623,000 small businesses called New York State home, comprising 98 percent of all businesses; and

WHEREAS, Prior to the pandemic, New York State's small businesses had employed more than four million people, or 50.2 percent of all the employees in the state, and generated 54 percent of New York's total known export value; and

WHEREAS, Small businesses showed great ingenuity by adapting quickly to pandemic-related restrictions and resulting economic hardships and they continued to serve their communities; and

WHEREAS, Nine out of 10 small businesses report having experienced major changes in their business because of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, While many small businesses benefited from Federal and New York State COVID-19 relief programs, safety precautions and then supply chain disruptions forced many to lay off workers and some to shut their doors; and

WHEREAS, In the last two state budgets, New York has attempted to directly help small businesses with almost \$2.5 billion in grants, tax relief and tax credits, as well as expanded access to capital and job-creating investments; and

WHEREAS, New York State continues to actively support minority- and women-owned business enterprises with increased investments and greater access to procurement contracting; and

WHEREAS, New York State is prioritizing and promoting service-disabled veteran-owned businesses with grants and technical assistance programs and in the public procurement process; and

WHEREAS, The innovation, diversity, competitive strength, job creation, and quality of life that small businesses bring to our economy are vital elements for our State's long-term economic health; and

WHEREAS, The entrepreneurial spirit of New York residents has led to

the creation and growth of emerging agricultural industries in New York, such as craft beverages, artisanal foods, and the production of hemp, hops and adult-use cannabis; and

WHEREAS, Small business owners demonstrate extraordinary resilience in the face of larger forces beyond their control, such as challenging economic times, supply chain disruptions, and pandemics; and

WHEREAS, The future welfare of our State depends on the continued development of small businesses; and

WHEREAS, The members of the New York State Assembly wish to proclaim their recognition of small businesses as a crucial element in the economy of New York State and the need for all residents to shop locally; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to declare May 1-7, 2022, as Small Business Week 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.