

BY: Senator RYAN

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2024, as Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer 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 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 Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2024, as Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Awareness Month in the State of New York, in solidarity with all New York State residents and their families fighting cancer; and

WHEREAS, This annual awareness month is an opportunity to shine a light on the unique challenges that teen and young adult cancer patients and survivors face; and

WHEREAS, Young Adult Cancer Patients are identified as those diagnosed between 18-39 years of age, impacting 90,000 new patients each year; and

WHEREAS, Cancer diagnosis rates, especially for breast, prostate, endometrial, cervical, colorectal and other gastrointestinal cancers, among people under 50 are on the rise; the diagnosis rate increasing 13 percent in the Nation since 2000, many individuals in this age group are too young for regular cancer screenings, meaning their disease can go undiagnosed for longer; and

WHEREAS, Recent data shows individuals born in the 90s are twice as likely to develop early onset colon cancer and four times as likely to develop rectal cancer as someone born in the 50s; and

WHEREAS, This vital month of recognition is providing teens and young adults dealing with a cancer diagnosis opportunities to develop healthy habits during and after treatment, helping to reduce the burden of healthcare within the local community; and

WHEREAS, Awareness and education are powerful tools in the race to find a cure for adolescent and young adult cancers; and

WHEREAS, The health and vitality of the people of New York are significantly enhanced by local efforts to increase communication and education pertaining to cancer; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater awareness of this serious health issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and National levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2024, as Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer 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.