

Assembly Resolution No. 1034

BY: M. of A. Norris

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 27, 2024, as Amniotic Fluid Embolism Awareness Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in recognizing official days established to increase awareness of serious health issues that affect the lives of all New Yorkers; 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 March 27, 2024, as Amniotic Fluid Embolism Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Amniotic Fluid Embolism Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, Amniotic Fluid Embolism Awareness Day was established to bring attention to this devastating and often-fatal pregnancy complication and the importance of reducing maternal mortality resulting from it; and

WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control, the maternal mortality rate in the United States increased from 20.1 in 2019 to 23.8 in 2020 per 100,000 live births; and

WHEREAS, As of 2018, the maternal mortality rate in the State of New York was 18.1 deaths per 100,000 live births; by 2024, the New York State Health Plan aims to substantially lower that figure to 16 per 100,000; and

WHEREAS, AFE is thought to be the result of an allergic-like reaction to the amniotic fluid or fetal cells that have entered the circulatory system during childbirth, a normal part of the birth process; and

WHEREAS, Established in 2008, the AFE Foundation, working in collaboration with key stakeholders in New York, provides meaningful education and life-saving skills to properly prepare healthcare providers to manage and treat patients, increase lives saved, and gain submissions to the AFE Registry and Biorepository; and

WHEREAS, Currently under the luminous leadership of Executive Director Miranda Klassen, the AFE Foundation has served 1,500 families globally, educated more than 10,000 clinicians, and submitted more than 250 cases to the AFE Registry; and

WHEREAS, Awareness of AFE and commensurate data collection and research will promote understanding of this disorder, expand the search for an effective treatment, and accelerate the increase of the number of lives saved; and

WHEREAS, After losing his wife Ali to this tragic birth complication in 2019, Justin Waclawek founded the Alison Rose Foundation the following year to raise funds for AFE awareness initiatives and research, and medical care for children and mothers; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, the Alison Rose Foundation has sponsored numerous events which have raised significant funds that were donated to the AFE Foundation, Golisano Children's Hospital, Sister's Hospital Foundation, and Oishei Children's Hospital of Buffalo Foundation; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater awareness of this serious health condition, and more must be done to increase activity at 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 March 27, 2024, as Amniotic Fluid Embolism Awareness Day in the State of New York, and to urge the citizens of this great Empire State to learn about the causes, symptoms, diagnoses and treatments for Amniotic Fluid Embolism; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York; Miranda Klassen, Executive Director, AFE Foundation; and Justin Waclawek, President, Alison Rose Foundation.