

Assembly Resolution No. 2085

BY: M. of A. Hyndman

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2024, as Minority Health 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 health issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State and to also encourage increased cholesterol screenings; and

**WHEREAS,** High cholesterol, also called hypercholesterolemia, is the chronic presence of high levels of cholesterol in the blood that can lead to cardiovascular disease (CVD), and even cardiovascular (CV) events like heart attacks or strokes; and

**WHEREAS,** The CDC estimates that CVD is arguably the most underappreciated public health crisis of our time, and someone in the US has a heart attack every 40 seconds, yet about 80% are preventable; and

**WHEREAS,** Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), or 'bad' cholesterol, is an easily modifiable risk factor for CVD; lower LDL-C is associated with a reduced risk of heart attack and stroke; and

**WHEREAS,** Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States among racial and ethnic minority populations; more than 80 million adults have high LDL-C; and

**WHEREAS,** The American Heart Association (AHA) has demonstrated that Hispanic Americans are at exceptionally high risk for cardiovascular disease and coronary heart disease, both of which can lead to a stroke or heart attack; and

**WHEREAS,** The AHA indicates that CVD disproportionately affects minority populations; 52.3% of Hispanic males and 42.7% of Hispanic females over the age of 20 are affected by CVD; and 60.1% of Black males and 58.8% of Black females 20 years of age and older have CVD; and

**WHEREAS,** The CDC found that 1 in 3 deaths in the United States are due to heart disease and this results in more than \$216 billion in healthcare costs; and

**WHEREAS,** Nearly 60% of middle-aged Hispanic adults have high cholesterol, yet only half are aware of this, according to a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association; and

**WHEREAS,** A study published in the **American Journal of Preventative Cardiology** found cholesterol testing, an important preventive measure for reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease, declined during the COVID pandemic; and

**WHEREAS,** The resources needed to bend the curve in CVD exist, yet

71% of hypercholesterolemia patients at high risk of a CV event never achieve recommended LDL-C treatment guideline thresholds; and

**WHEREAS,** The LDL-C Action Summit, a consortium of the Nation's leading cardiovascular stakeholder groups, seeks to cut cardiovascular events in half by 2030; and

**WHEREAS,** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Million Hearts program seeks to improve access and quality of care to reduce heart disease, stroke, and death; and

**WHEREAS,** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health recognizes April as National Minority Health Month; and

**WHEREAS,** To celebrate Minority Health Month, New Yorkers are encouraged to urge the State Department of Health to update their cardiovascular plan to accelerate quality improvements and measures to achieve improved health outcomes for CVD patients; to develop campaigns to increase cholesterol tests during the month of April; and to advocate for providers to treat all CVD patients in accordance with American College of Cardiology treatment guidelines; and

**WHEREAS,** It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this health issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State, and national levels to improve health and healthcare outcomes for racial and ethnic minority communities; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2024, as Minority Health 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.