

BY: M. of A. Slater

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
November 17, 2023, as Prematurity Day in the State
of New York

WHEREAS, The March of Dimes Foundation is a pioneer in improving the health of infants and women of childbearing age by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality; 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 November 17, 2023, as Prematurity Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of World Prematurity Day; and

WHEREAS, World Prematurity Day was created on November 17, 2011, to raise awareness for the millions of children every year who are born prematurely; while technologies and medical procedures in America have increased over the years, preterm babies still carry a huge vulnerability to develop cerebral palsy, delays in development, hearing problems, and sight problems; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, while neonatal death in the United States is low in comparison to most of the world, premature births account for a quarter of all neonatal deaths; and

WHEREAS, World Prematurity Day was created to shine a light on the risk and hardships created by premature births, cost-effective and proven solutions, and spreading compassion for families who have experienced premature births; and

WHEREAS, Many premature babies grow up to completely healthy individuals, with some even becoming notable public figures such as Winston Churchill and Albert Einstein; and

WHEREAS, On November 17th, take a moment to show compassion and support for families who are experiencing the anxiety of premature births by observing World Prematurity Day, created by the March of Dimes; and

WHEREAS, We all love our babies from the moment they are born; World Prematurity Day reminds us of babies born too early and the health challenges they can face as they grow up; and

WHEREAS, These little ones need loads of love and support and World Prematurity Day is a chance to show it; 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 November 17, 2023, as Prematurity Day 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.