

BY: M. of A. Seawright

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 4, 2024, as Cancer Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of World Cancer Day

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are set aside to increase awareness of serious diseases that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, World Cancer Day is an initiative of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), the largest and oldest international cancer organization, dedicated to taking the lead in convening, capacity building and advocacy initiatives that unite the cancer community to reduce the global cancer burden, promote greater equity, and integrate cancer control into the world health and development agenda; and

WHEREAS, By raising worldwide awareness, improving education and catalyzing personal, collective and government action, we are all working together to reimagine a world where millions of preventable cancer deaths are saved and access to life-saving cancer treatment and care is equitable for all - no matter who you are or where you live; and

WHEREAS, Created on February 4, 2000, at the World Summit Against Cancer for the New Millennium in Paris, World Cancer Day has grown into a positive movement for everyone, everywhere to unite under one voice to face one of our greatest challenges in history; and

WHEREAS, Each year, hundreds of activities and events take place around the world, gathering communities, organizations and individuals in schools, businesses, hospitals, marketplaces, parks, community halls, places of worship - in the streets and online - acting as a powerful reminder that we all have a role to play in reducing the global impact of cancer; and

WHEREAS, While we live in a time of awe-inspiring advancements in cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment, many of us who seek cancer care hit barriers at every turn; income, education, geographical location and discrimination based on ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability and lifestyle are just a few of the factors that can negatively affect care; and

WHEREAS, The theme for this year's World Cancer Day, "Close the Care Gap," is all about ensuring our leaders know that we demand a commitment to prioritizing cancer, to creating innovative strategies designed to confront inequity, and to investing our resources to achieve a just and cancer-free world; and

WHEREAS, Locally, Pancreatic Cancer North America in partnership with the Firefighter Cancer Support Network will recognize World Cancer

Day in New York City to address the increased risk of cancer diagnosis among firefighters; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the Social Media Prevention Awareness Campaign sponsored by Brooklyn College Cancer Center will spread awareness throughout Brooklyn, New York, promoting cancer prevention habits with an emphasis on colorectal and prostate cancers impact on the Black Caribbean-American community; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater awareness of these serious health conditions, 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 February 4, 2024, as Cancer Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of World Cancer Day; 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.