

BY: M. of A. Reyes

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
March 4, 2024, as Obesity Awareness Day in the State
of New York

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

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 4, 2024, as Obesity Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of World Obesity Day; and

WHEREAS, World Obesity Day is observed globally on March 4th to lead and drive global efforts to reduce, prevent and treat obesity, as well as to promote practical solutions to end the global obesity crisis; and

WHEREAS, This vital initiative is organized by the World Obesity Federation, a non-profit body which is in official relations with the World Health Organization and is the only global organization focused exclusively on obesity; and

WHEREAS, Obesity is a growing epidemic affecting about 40% of adults in the United States, and is recognized as a chronic disease by many leading medical professional and patient organizations, including the American Medical Association, American Heart Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Board of Obesity Medicine, Endocrine Society, and the Obesity Society; and

WHEREAS, Experts and researchers agree obesity is a complex disease influenced by various psychological, environmental, and genetic factors; those affected by the disease are at higher risk of developing many health-related conditions such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, stroke, and some cancers; and

WHEREAS, According to a 2019 study, nearly 28% of New Yorkers are obese, compared with the national average of 30.9%; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, total obesity-related costs in New York State are estimated at more than 11.8 billion dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, All types of citizens are affected by the disease, however according to the National Center for Health Statistics, obesity has a disproportionate impact among lower income individuals, those with less education, and minority communities; and

WHEREAS, Studies show bias and stigma against people affected by obesity, both societal and among healthcare professionals, are significant barriers to effectively treating the disease; and

WHEREAS, Prevention programs, comprehensive care and treatment are essential tools in mitigating the human and economic costs of this public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, Research suggests weight loss of 5% to 10% can improve health and reduce the risk of some obesity-related diseases and can thereby advance the goals of state public health initiatives to reduce chronic disease, improve health outcomes, and control healthcare costs; 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 March 4, 2024, as Obesity Awareness 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.