

**BY:** Senator ASHBY

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim  
May 15, 2025, as Prader-Willi Syndrome 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 serious illnesses that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim Thursday, May 15, 2025, as Prader-Willi Syndrome Awareness Day in the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Prader-Willi syndrome is a complex genetic disorder that occurs in approximately one out of every 15,000 births, and is the most commonly known genetic cause of life-threatening obesity; and

**WHEREAS,** Prader-Willi syndrome affects males and females with equal frequency and affects all races and ethnicities; and

**WHEREAS,** Prader-Willi syndrome causes an extreme and insatiable appetite, often resulting in morbid obesity, which is the major cause of death for individuals with the syndrome; and

**WHEREAS,** Prader-Willi syndrome also causes cognitive, learning, and behavioral difficulties, such as obsessive-compulsive disorder and difficulty controlling emotions; and

**WHEREAS,** The hunger, metabolic, and behavioral characteristics of Prader-Willi syndrome force affected individuals to require constant and lifelong supervision in a controlled environment; and

**WHEREAS,** Despite no cure, early diagnosis of Prader-Willi syndrome allows families to access treatment, intervention services, and support from health professionals, advocacy organizations, and other families who are dealing with the syndrome; and

**WHEREAS,** With the knowledge that a diagnosis can help families get the therapies and the equipment they need for a child to have a better-quality life, New York State officially added Prader-Willi syndrome to the definition of "Developmental disability" in July of 2017 in order to increase access to supports through the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities; and

**WHEREAS,** The Prader-Willi Alliance of New York, Inc was founded in 1990 to provide information, promote awareness, facilitate assistance and referral services to families, and to provide support to the national Prader-Willi Syndrome Association, USA; and

**WHEREAS,** The national Prader-Willi Syndrome Association, USA, is celebrating 50 years of support, advocacy, and progress, with a theme of

"Journey for Hope"; the association is led by CEO Stacy Ward and Board of Directors member Jeffrey Covington representing New York; and

**WHEREAS,** The Prader-Willi Alliance of New York, Inc's mission is for all people with Prader-Willi syndrome living in New York state to have the hope and support they require; the Alliance is led through the leadership of President Amy McDougall, 1st Vice President Dan Angilolillo, 2nd Vice President Dan Maillet, and countless volunteers and advocates; and

**WHEREAS,** Recently discovered treatments, such as human growth hormone, and many promising new research studies in New York State help the many difficult symptoms associated with the Prader-Willi syndrome, improving the quality of life for individuals with the syndrome and offering new hope to families; and

**WHEREAS,** Increased research into Prader-Willi syndrome can lead to a better understanding of the disorder, more effective treatments, and an eventual cure for Prader-Willi syndrome; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 15, 2025, as Prader-Willi Syndrome Awareness Day in the State of New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause further to support raising awareness and educating the public about Prader-Willi syndrome; to applaud the efforts of advocates and organizations that encourage awareness, promote research, and provide education, support, and hope to those impacted by Prader-Willi syndrome; to recognize the commitment of parents, families, researchers, health professionals, and others dedicated to finding an effective treatment and eventual cure for Prader-Willi syndrome; and to support increased funding for research into the causes, treatment, and cure for Prader-Willi syndrome; 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.