Assembly Resolution No. 1216

BY: M. of A. McMahon

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2026, as Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer is the fastest increasing cancer among men in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer is one of the fastest growing cancer diagnoses among all Americans, increasing more than 700% in recent decades; and

WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer kills one American every 36 minutes; and

WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer is among the deadliest of cancer types, with only about one in five patients surviving five years; and

WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer has low survival rates because it is usually discovered at advanced stages when treatment outcomes are poor; and

WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer in the U.S. is most often caused by persistent heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), yet many who are at risk are unaware of the potential danger GERD can present when it occurs over several weeks or months; and

WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer can be a silent killer with patients often unaware that the heartburn, cough, hoarse voice, sore throat, chest pain, or other symptoms they suffer can be signs of GERD and are reasons to discuss screening for Esophageal Cancer with their health care provider; and

WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer can develop from GERD when fluids from the stomach splash into the esophagus, creating cellular change resulting in a precancerous condition known as Barrett's Esophagus, which can lead to a 30-fold increase in a patient's risk of developing Esophageal Cancer; and

WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer can be prevented through early detection of its precursor, Barrett's Esophagus, which can be eliminated with curative outpatient techniques; and

WHEREAS, The Esophageal Cancer Action Network, ECAN, is working to improve public awareness throughout the nation of the link between heartburn and cancer and supports progress in early detection and treatment of Esophageal cancer; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2026, as Esophageal Cancer Awareness 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.