Assembly Resolution No. 1262

BY: M. of A. Griffin

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 28, 2026, as Workers' Memorial Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Each year, across the Nation, the Labor Movement observes Workers' Memorial Day to remember workers killed, injured, or made ill on the job and to renew the fight for strong safety and health protections; and

WHEREAS, For decades, workers have struggled for improved working conditions, dignity, and respect on the job; and

WHEREAS, New York, the Empire State, has been built and made great through the hard work and effort of working people; and

WHEREAS, Many men and women work each day in dangerous environments, at times under arduous and perilous conditions; and

WHEREAS, The Labor Movement organized for safer working conditions and demanded action from the government to protect working people; and

WHEREAS, On April 28, 1971, as a result of the tireless efforts of the Labor Movement, the Occupational Safety and Health Act went into effect, granting all citizens the fundamental right to safe jobs and creating the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; and

WHEREAS, Since that impactful day, unions and allies of the Labor Movement have won several protections for workers to make jobs less dangerous and to save lives; however, thousands of workers are still killed each year, and millions more suffer from injury and illness due to unsafe working conditions; and

WHEREAS, As of 2023, in the United States, 5,283 workers were killed on the job; 385 workers died each day from hazardous working conditions; an estimated 135,304 workers died from occupational diseases; however, the overall job fatality rate decreased, from statistical data in previous years, to 3.5 per 100,000 workers; employers reported nearly 3.2 million work-related injuries and illnesses, a decrease from the previous year; and

WHEREAS, Musculoskeletal disorders from repetitive motion injuries continue to be a major problem, accounting for approximately 28% of all serious work-related injuries and illnesses in private industry; due to underreporting of all workplace injuries and illnesses, accurate accounting is not possible, with an estimate of 5.2 million to 7.8 million each year in private industry; and

WHEREAS, Chemical exposures continue to plague working people, leading to debilitating, life-threatening diseases that are totally preventable; the cost of job injuries and illnesses is enormous,

estimated at $174 billion to $348 billion per year, not considering the real impact on society, families, and communities; aside from the unfathomable grief caused by the death of a person, there are long-term social and economic impacts on the workers' families and society; and

WHEREAS, The members of this Legislative Body are determined to ensure that safe workplaces are the standard for all working men and women and pause in remembrance of those who have imperiled their health and safety or sacrificed their lives in the performance of their work; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 28, 2026, as Workers' Memorial 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.