

**BY:** M. of A. Woerner

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 2025, as Stalking Awareness Month in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months that are set aside to increase awareness of serious issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; stalking is an issue that vastly affects citizens across the State and Nation, causing psychological distress to those that are victims; and

**WHEREAS,** Stalking involves a perpetrator's use of a pattern of harassing or threatening tactics that are both unwanted and cause fear or safety concerns in a victim; and

**WHEREAS,** Victims of stalking may experience being followed in public or at their home; receiving unwanted written, digital or verbal communication; receiving unwanted gifts or other objects that arouse fear and intimidation; being digitally tracked; and being verbally or physically assaulted by their predator; and

**WHEREAS,** More than half of all victims of stalking indicated that they were stalked before the age of 25, and nearly 1 in 4 by the age of 18; and

**WHEREAS,** In a one-year period in the United States, approximately 13.5 million people are stalked; the United States Centers for Disease Control's National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey reported that about 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men have been stalked at some point in their lives; and

**WHEREAS,** A preconceived notion may be that a stranger is typically a stalker, however, studies show that 40% of victims are stalked by a current or former intimate partner, 42% by an acquaintance, and 11% of stalking victims have been experiencing their terrifying situation for 5 years or more; and

**WHEREAS,** Affecting their ability to go about their daily lives, 1 in 8 employed stalking victims lose time from work as a result of their victimization and more than half lose 5 days of work or more; truly scared for their lives in some instances, 1 in 7 individuals experiencing stalking move as a result of their victimization; and

**WHEREAS,** Stalking victims suffer higher rates of mental illness, such as depression, anxiety, insomnia, than people in the general population and psychological distress often endures long after stalking may have ceased; and

**WHEREAS,** Prevention strategies must be employed at multiple levels, from individual to communal to societal, to promote lasting social change; and

**WHEREAS,** Primary prevention education and awareness campaigns have the potential to not only increase identification of stalking and the appropriate response from helping professionals and the public, but when used in a primary prevention framework, can also act as a catalyst to change social and community norms to promote healthy and equitable behavior; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 2025, as Stalking 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.