

**BY:** M. of A. DeStefano

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 2025, as Thyroid Disease 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 conditions that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

**WHEREAS,** Thyroid Disease affecting an estimated 20 million Americans in the United States, 60 percent of the people with Thyroid Disease don't know they have a problem; the majority of people with this disease have yet to be diagnosed; and

**WHEREAS,** Thyroid Disease is any dysfunction of the thyroid, the butterfly-shaped gland at the base of the neck, it encompasses a wide array of disorders, such as thyroid nodules, hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism, Goiter, Graves' disease, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, and various thyroid cancers; and

**WHEREAS,** The disease can develop in anyone, but tends to occur about three times as often in women as in men; women between the ages of 35 and 65 are at highest risk of getting thyroid cancer, followed by older people (both men and women); thyroid cancer occurs more frequently in Whites and Asians than in African Americans; and

**WHEREAS,** Each year, approximately 1,000 men and 3,100 women are diagnosed with thyroid cancer in New York State; of that number, about 50 men and 70 women die from this disease each year; and

**WHEREAS,** Between 1975 and 2013, the amount of thyroid cancer cases diagnosed each year has more than tripled; cases of advanced forms of the disease rose by nearly three percent each year while deaths rose by about one percent each year; and

**WHEREAS,** At this time, the causes of thyroid cancer and disorders are not well understood, however, scientists agree that certain factors increase a person's risk of developing these diseases; these risk factors include: exposure to high levels of ionizing radiation, exposure to radioactive iodine, and it is more common among people with certain inherited diseases including familial adenomatous polyposis; and

**WHEREAS,** To reduce the risk of Thyroid Disease, doctors recommend partaking in regular exercise, stop smoking, and perform regular neck checks; and

**WHEREAS,** Through public awareness, this Legislative Body seeks to minimize the devastating effects of thyroid disease among all the citizens of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 2025, Thyroid Disease 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.