

BY: M. of A. Gonzalez-Rojas

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 24, 2026, as Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive behavior and tactics used by someone against their intimate partner in an attempt to gain or maintain power and control, and types of abuse can include physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, technological and economic abuse or threats of actions or other patterns of coercive behavior that influence another person within an intimate partner relationship; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is not limited to specific groups based on race, socioeconomic status, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, religious affiliation or social location, but rather is perpetrated by abusers from all social groups; and

WHEREAS, On average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States-more than 12 million people over the course of a year; and

WHEREAS, On average, about one in four women and one in ten men experience contact sexual violence, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner and reported an IPV-related impact during their lifetime, and approximately 1.5 million women and 835,000 men are raped and/or physically assaulted by an intimate partner each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Due to systemic racism, racist policies and racist societal structures, both Black women and Black men experience intimate partner violence at a disproportionately high rate with 45 percent of Black women and 40 percent of Black men experiencing intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence affects the LGBTQ+ community at a rate equal to or even greater than that experienced by the cisgender, heterosexual community, with 43.8 percent of lesbian women and 26 percent of gay men experiencing rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime, and 54 percent of the transgender and gender non-conforming community have reported experiencing some form of intimate partner violence, with transgender women of color experiencing heightened levels of violence; and

WHEREAS, According to a study from the National Institute of Justice, more than half of Native American and Alaska Native women have experienced physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, Among high school students who dated, nearly 21 percent of females and 10.4 percent of males experienced some form of teen dating violence within the past 12 months of the survey, and 43 percent of

dating college women report experiencing violent or abusive behaviors from their partner; and

WHEREAS, Researchers estimate that between 3.3 million and 10 million children are exposed to adult intimate partner violence each year and observing intimate partner violence in childhood increases the risk of later perpetration for men by an estimated 56 or 63 percent, depending on severity; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence survivors experience a host of physical and mental health-related consequences at far greater rates than their counterparts who have not been abused; and

WHEREAS, According to an annual survey conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence, New York State consistently has the greatest demand for domestic violence services in the country with 10,609 survivors requesting services on just one day in 2024, and 1,717 unfulfilled service requests on that same day because of insufficient resources or staff; and

WHEREAS, In 2024, there were 241,351 orders of protection issued that required entry in the New York State Registry, a three percent increase from 2023 and a 17 percent increase from 2021; and

WHEREAS, The NYS Office of Children and Family Services reported that 47,700 survivors of domestic violence and their children received services from New York residential and non-residential domestic violence service providers, and nearly 275,000 hotline calls were received across the State in 2024; and

WHEREAS, According to the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services and the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence, there were 71 intimate partner homicides in New York State in 2024, a 13 percent increase from 2020; and

WHEREAS, The cost of a single homicide is estimated at \$17.25 million when considering medical care, lost future earnings, other related public programming and services, and property damage and other losses; and

WHEREAS, The economic burden of domestic violence in the United States is staggering, with costs to the U.S. economy estimated to exceed \$8.3 billion annually, with 21-60 percent of victims of intimate partner violence losing their jobs due to reasons stemming from the abuse; and

WHEREAS, Primary prevention strategies address the root causes and conditions that make domestic violence possible, and public health research has shown that implementing prevention activities at multiple levels on the social ecology scale-individual, relationship, community, and societal-will lead to lasting social change; and

WHEREAS, Primary prevention is focused on establishing gender equality, cultivating and promoting healthy relationship behaviors, and changing conditions in communities and culture to stop domestic violence before it starts; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence advocates consistently provide comprehensive and compassionate life-saving services, advocacy, and support to survivors of domestic violence and their children, while leading essential primary prevention efforts within their communities to motivate the change needed to stop domestic violence from happening in the first place; and

WHEREAS, As part of executing its mission, the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence seeks to create and support the social change necessary to prevent and confront all forms of domestic violence, to ensure the availability and accessibility of innovative and effective supports and services for all domestic violence survivors and their families, and to dismantle oppression, end systemic racism and uproot the inequities that foster violence; and

WHEREAS, New York State needs to continually and significantly invest in services and support for domestic violence survivors and their families in order to meet the rising demand for assistance and to continue progress toward ending domestic violence once and for all; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 24, 2026, as Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, and the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence.