

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2011 as Charcot-Marie-Tooth Disease Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are set aside to increase awareness of serious issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2011 as Charcot-Marie-Tooth Disease Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (CMT) is one of the most common inherited neurological disorders, affecting approximately 1 in 2,500 people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The disease is named for the three physicians who first identified it in 1886, Jean-Martin Charcot and Pierre Marie in Paris, France, and Howard Henry Tooth in Cambridge, England; and

WHEREAS, CMT, also known as hereditary motor and sensory neuropathy (HMSN) or peroneal muscular atrophy, comprises a group of disorders that affect peripheral nerves which lie outside the brain and spinal cord and supply the muscles and sensory organs in the limbs known as neuropathies; and

WHEREAS, The neuropathy of CMT affects both motor and sensory nerves; a typical feature includes weakness of the foot and lower leg muscles, which may result in foot drop and a high-stepped gait with frequent tripping or falls; and

WHEREAS, Foot deformities, such as high arches and hammertoes are also characteristic of patients with CMT due to weakness of the small muscles in the feet; in addition, the lower legs may take on an "inverted champagne bottle" appearance due to the loss of muscle bulk; and

WHEREAS, Later in the disease, weakness and muscle atrophy may occur in the hands, resulting in difficulty with carrying out fine motor skills; and

WHEREAS, Onset of symptoms is most often in adolescence or early adulthood, but some individuals develop symptoms in mid-adulthood; the severity of symptoms varies greatly among individuals and even among family members with the disease; and

WHEREAS, Progression of CMT symptoms is gradual; pain can range from mild to severe, and some people may need to rely on foot or leg braces or other orthopedic devices to maintain mobility; and

WHEREAS, Although in rare cases, individuals may have respiratory muscle weakness, CMT is not considered a fatal disease and people with most forms of CMT have a normal life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious health issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and national levels to support the patients as well as their families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2011 as Charcot-Marie-Tooth 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 Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.