

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 2013 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Childhood cancer is a substantial public health problem in the United States; between infancy and 15 years of age, it is the leading cause of death by disease among children and, according to the National Cancer Trends Progress Report of 2005, is increasing slightly; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 9,500 new cases of pediatric cancer were expected to be diagnosed in 2006; and

WHEREAS, While there were an estimated 1,500 deaths in 2003, about one-third of them from leukemia, mortality rates have declined approximately 57 percent since the early 1970s; and

WHEREAS, Cancers in children often are difficult to recognize; common sites include the blood and bone marrow, lymph nodes, brain, nervous system, kidneys, and soft tissues; and

WHEREAS, Some of the main childhood cancers include leukemia, osteogenic sarcoma, Ewing's sarcoma, neuroblastoma, rhabdomyoma sarcoma, brain cancers, lymphomas and Hodgkin's, retinoblastoma, and Wilm's tumor; among the 11 major types of childhood cancers, leukemia and brain and central nervous system tumors account for more than half of all new cases; and

WHEREAS, Parents should see that their children have regular medical checkups, a healthy diet, and 60 minutes of exercise a day, and should be alert to any unusual symptoms which persist; and

WHEREAS, Some of these symptoms include an unusual mass or swelling, unexplained paleness and loss of energy, sudden tendency to bruise, a persistent localized pain or limping, unexplained fever or illness, frequent headaches, sudden eye or vision changes, and excessive rapid weight loss; and

WHEREAS, The combined five-year survival rate for all childhood cancers has improved from 56 percent in the 1970s to 79 percent in the 1990s and certain cancers which were almost invariably fatal 40 years ago, such as some childhood leukemias, now have cure rates of more than 80 percent; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body reaffirms its commitment to encouraging continued early detection and treatment of childhood cancer and access to quality medical care for treatment and post-treatment options; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body further reaffirms its commitment to provide children and their families with access to information and the ability to interact with medical experts, researchers, and other affected individuals and their families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 2013 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, and to Sunrise Day Camp, Oceanside, New York.