

BY: Senator SAVINO

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim
June 16, 2019, as Domestic Workers Day 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 residents 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 June 16, 2019, as Domestic Workers Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of International Domestic Workers Day; and

WHEREAS, Everyday, domestic workers care for the elderly, assist people with disabilities, clean homes, and nurture children, thus freeing up the time and attention of millions of other working families; and

WHEREAS, Domestic work is routinely undervalued and overlooked, casting domestic workers into the shadows and making their needs invisible; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, domestic workers were intentionally excluded from the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) as a concession to Southern politicians in the early 1900s; this exclusion was mirrored on the state level, creating an unregulated and underground economy that left domestic workers subject to widespread mistreatment and abuse; and

WHEREAS, Without laws to regulate behavior and policies, domestic workers are vulnerable to rampant exploitation including wage theft, sexual harassment and abuse, and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Domestic workers often have to rely on the good graces of potential employers rather than expect industry standards and practices to protect them; and

WHEREAS, International Domestic Workers Day, June 16, celebrates the 2011 passage of the International Labor Organization Convention 189 for Decent Work for Domestic Workers; and

WHEREAS, In 2010 and 2011, domestic workers from around the world came together to fight to establish the first global standards for the estimated 50 to 100 million domestic workers worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Providing domestic workers with protections equivalent to those available to other workers addresses historic discrimination and frequent exclusion from labor laws for the domestic work sector, and promises better working conditions and better lives; and

WHEREAS, Government at all levels in across the world have a responsibility to review their labor laws and reform them as necessary to bring them into line with the convention and recommendation; and

WHEREAS, Governments must act powerfully to protect domestic workers from violence and abuse, including educating and holding accountable domestic employers to compliance with the law, regulating intermediaries that recruit and facilitate employment such as private employment agencies and gig-app platform companies, and preventing child labor and labor trafficking in domestic work; and

WHEREAS, After winning C.189, domestic workers have continued on with building the International Domestic Workers Federation, a strong, democratic and united domestic workers global organization to protect and advance domestic workers' rights everywhere; and

WHEREAS, New York was the first state in the Nation to pass a Domestic Worker Bill of Rights and since continues to be committed to propelling domestic workers' rights to the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, In just nine years, nine states and one municipality have passed Domestic Workers' Bills of Rights in the United States, representing a historic step forward for domestic work being recognized as real work and establishing labor protections; and

WHEREAS, Domestic workers have an inherent right to be able to demand more from their industry and be able to engage in dialoguing with employers and government to determine fair standards that honors their humanity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 16, 2019, as Domestic Workers Day 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 the National Domestic Workers Alliance.