

BY: Senator RIVERA

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 14-20, 2021, as Thyroid Eye Disease Awareness Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official weeks that are set aside to increase awareness of serious illnesses 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, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 14-20, 2021, as Thyroid Eye Disease Awareness Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Thyroid Eye Disease Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, The National Institute of Health defines a rare disease as a condition that affects fewer than 200,000 people in the United States; currently there are approximately 7,000 rare diseases impacting almost 30 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, Thyroid Eye Disease (TED) is a serious, progressive and rare autoimmune condition in which the body's immune system mistakenly attacks healthy muscle and fat tissue behind the eye, causing inflammation and scar tissue to form; and

WHEREAS, People living with TED often have debilitating symptoms of eye bulging, double vision, blurred vision, pain and facial disfigurement and, in severe cases, it can lead to blindness; and

WHEREAS, People living with TED often experience long-term impact on functional, psychosocial and economic burdens, including the inability to work or perform activities of daily living; and

WHEREAS, The exact underlying process by which TED occurs is not fully understood and TED is a serious, vision threatening condition that can get worse over time; and

WHEREAS, TED is a rare disease and is estimated to have a prevalence 16 per 100,000 women in the general population, and 2.9 per 100,000 men in the general population; and

WHEREAS, A diagnosis of TED is based upon identification of characteristic symptoms, a detailed patient history, a thorough clinical evaluation and a variety of specialized tests; and

WHEREAS, There is a genetic component to the condition and people who have a family member with the disease or a family member with an autoimmune disease are at a greater risk of developing the condition; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater awareness of this serious health condition, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and National levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 14-20, 2021, as Thyroid Eye Disease Awareness Week 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; American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association; and New York Biotechnology Association and Prevent Blindness.