Senate Resolution No. 2787

BY: Senator MARTUCCI

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 8, 2022, as End Jew Hatred 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 events that affect the lives of the citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing tradition, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 8, 2022, as End Jew Hatred Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, For millennia, the Jewish people have sustained their shared religious, cultural, and ethnic identity and traditions in the face of enslavement, persecution, genocide, segregation and discrimination, and all manner of adversity; and

WHEREAS, Ever since the first Jew set foot in New Amsterdam in 1654, members of the Jewish community have made indelible contributions to the culture, history, and social fabric of New York State and the United States of America, strengthening the country, and helping shape all areas of American life; and

WHEREAS, The belief in the greatness of the American way of life, the freedoms enshrined in American law and jurisprudence, and the opportunities sustained by American democracy drew generations of Jewish immigrants to America, including Jews fleeing persecution and pogroms in Europe and the Middle East, Holocaust survivors, and Jews trapped behind the Iron Curtain; and

WHEREAS, This history encouraged many Jews to become leading proponents and supporters of the civil rights movement, marching shoulder to shoulder with African Americans and others, united in support for equal rights, equal protection under the law, and the recognition and respect of human dignity; and

WHEREAS, The Jewish community has prominently participated in virtually every civil rights effort in the American experience, fighting against discrimination and bigotry in all its forms and demanding the equal rights of every member of society; and

WHEREAS, Despite the proclamation and resolutions, and despite the advances made in promoting social justice for other minority groups, the Jewish community has continued to be subjected to antisemitism and Jew-hatred, including discrimination in the workplace, at school, and in society; and

WHEREAS, This antisemitism and Jew-hatred has manifested in workplaces, on campuses, and in society, expressing itself as both

discrimination and violence targeting Jews for their identity and seeking to deny their shared identity, including their indigenous connection to their ancestral homeland; and

WHEREAS, Hate crimes directed against the Jewish community have skyrocketed in recent years, with physical attacks against Jews in New York State alone increasing by 325% between 2020 and 2021, resulting in the highest number of antisemitic acts of violence on record in New York State; and

WHEREAS, The number of incidents of Jew-hatred, manifesting as physical assault, harassment, and vandalism, and including antisemitic fliers, banners, stickers, and written messages, has increased nationwide to the highest level since 1979; and

WHEREAS, The explosive growth in hate crimes directed against the Jewish community, coupled with the persistence of systemic Jew-hatred, has inspired the formation of a grassroots End Jew Hatred civil rights movement to alter public discourse and make Jew-hatred unacceptable in contemporary society, empowering Jews with positivity and strength to discover and enjoy their heritage in whichever manner they choose, without fear of attack or persecution; and

WHEREAS, The End Jew Hatred civil rights movement has united people to respond to pervasive antisemitism, working towards the promise of a bright future that can only be achieved by fighting racism and bigotry today; and

WHEREAS, September 8, 2022, marks the recognition of the first End Jew Hatred Day, on which citizens of the State of New York will join together to commit to ending Jew-hatred in the State of New York and across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Our state shares an obligation to condemn and combat Jew-hatred in all its forms, and to stand resolute against Jew-hatred so that the intergenerational trauma of the past shall never be repeated; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 8, 2022, as End Jew Hatred Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.