Senate Resolution No. 2792

BY: Senator RITCHIE

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim the month of May 2022 as Williams Syndrome Awareness Month in the State of New York

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

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May of 2022 as Williams Syndrome Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Williams Syndrome (WS) is a genetic condition, present at birth that can affect anyone and is characterized by medical issues, including cardiovascular disease, developmental delays, and learning disabilities; these medical conditions often occur side by side with striking verbal abilities, highly social personalities and an affinity for music; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that Williams Syndrome impacts one in every 10,000 people worldwide, including as many as 30,000 in the United States; it is known to occur equally in both males and females and in every culture; and

WHEREAS, As children with Williams Syndrome grow, many struggle with things like spatial relations, numbers, and abstract reasoning, which can make daily tasks a challenge; and

WHEREAS, In adulthood, individuals with Williams Syndrome will often need supportive housing and other resources to reach their fullest potential; and with these supports, they can contribute greatly to their communities as volunteers or paid employees in a wide variety of fields; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1982, The Williams Syndrome Association provides support to individuals with Williams Syndrome, as well as their families, connecting them with professionals and others who can assist them in coping with the condition; and

WHEREAS, Through this organization's efforts: from raising public awareness, to funding critical new research, and providing valuable information and support to families, The Williams Syndrome Association has improved the quality of life and futures of those affected by Williams Syndrome; and

WHEREAS, The Williams Syndrome Association, along with the families and friends of those with Williams Syndrome are to be commended for their hard work, compassion and dedication to educating the country about this rare disorder; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May of 2022 as Williams Syndrome 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 Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.