

**BY:** Senator MANNION

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim  
March 2021, as Developmental Disabilities 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 conditions 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 March 2021, as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS,** Individuals with developmental disabilities live, work, and volunteer in every neighborhood of this great Empire State; they are family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, teammates and classmates; and

**WHEREAS,** The communities of New York State are strongest when every resident is fully able to share his or her gifts and talents; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1987, President Ronald Reagan first proclaimed the month of March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and called upon Americans everywhere to provide the encouragement and opportunities necessary so that people with developmental disabilities can reach their highest potential; and

**WHEREAS,** Despite the many positive changes in societal attitude, workplace and educational culture, health care, available resources, and knowledge concerning people with developmental disabilities, much remains to be done to address the prevalence of negative stereotypes, lingering misinformation, and subsequent discrimination and barriers some of these vulnerable citizens face; and

**WHEREAS,** During Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, New Yorkers are encouraged to recognize the abilities of all people, and to take time to get to know some of the 300,000 New Yorkers with developmental disabilities; and

**WHEREAS,** It is crucial that individuals with developmental disabilities have access to the resources which allow them to live secure, fulfilling lives, including education, housing, employment, and recreational activities; and

**WHEREAS,** Opportunities for citizens with developmental disabilities to live as independently and productively as possible must be fostered throughout New York; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2021, as Developmental Disabilities 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 Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.