

BY: Senator BIAGGI

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim
April 2021, as Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Month
in the State of New York

WHEREAS, There is no test of society more important than that of how it treats its children, its most precious resource; and

WHEREAS, The children of today are the citizens and leaders of tomorrow; their health, well-being, and development are of paramount importance to the people of the State of New York and, as such, it is the sense of this Legislative Body that every child merits the encouragement, protection, and support of all; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2021, as Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, Sex crimes, particularly those committed against children, are among the most heinous and deeply disturbing in our society; they leave lifelong scars, have multiple victims, and require an all-encompassing strategy to combat; and

WHEREAS, In Federal fiscal year 2019, 4.4 million reports were made to child protective services; and

WHEREAS, On a national level, one in five girls and one in 20 boys are victims of sexual abuse, and the majority are abused by a family member or family acquaintances they trust and respect; and

WHEREAS, Studies have found that approximately 20.7% of children are sexually abused; that is about 43,000 children a year in New York State; and

WHEREAS, Effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

WHEREAS, By calling attention to the serious and significant problem of child sexual abuse, the observation of Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Month exemplifies a worthy commitment to the children of New York State, encourages improvement in the quality and availability of pertinent programs, laws and services, and provides an opportunity to increase awareness about all aspects of this important matter; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater awareness of this serious issue, 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 April 2021, as Child Sexual Abuse Prevention 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.