

BY: Senator RYAN

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2021, as World Refugee 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 issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State and the world; 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 June 2021, as World Refugee Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, June was first declared as World Refugee Awareness Month in 2001; since then, the month has been a time to acknowledge strength, courage and perseverance of millions of refugees who live around the globe; and

WHEREAS, Refugee children and their families must deal with past traumatic experiences while integrating into a new and unfamiliar society; and

WHEREAS, They must look for safety in an unknown culture, and ask for help in a nonnative language; these children and families have experienced war-related trauma and disruption, as well as resettlement, poverty, unemployment, stigmatization, and bias; and

WHEREAS, According to the United Nations, every minute 24 people leave everything behind to escape war, persecution or terror; and

WHEREAS, The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established in December of 1950 to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide; and

WHEREAS, New York has historically ranked among the top locations for accepting refugees as per Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration data; and

WHEREAS, Refugees enrich the communities that they settle in by starting businesses, building careers, purchasing homes and contributing to the economy; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Refugee Resettlement at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has released that International Rescue Committee (IRC), Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), Church World Service (CWS), Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC), Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM), United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and World Relief

Corporation (WR), some of the organizations responsible for resettling refugees in our community, along with numerous other community organizations and religious institutions have resettled more than 5,028 refugees in New York since October 2015 from more than 40 countries including Afghanistan, Burma, Iraq and Syria; and

WHEREAS, It is important to also pay tribute to the dedication of humanitarian workers both domestically and abroad who devote their lives to ensuring that vulnerable people can find a home; and

WHEREAS, There continue to be individuals and families in need of refuge and the support of New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2021, as World Refugee 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.