

**BY:** M. of A. Hyndman

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to  
proclaim June 13-19, 2021, as Sickle Cell Disease  
Awareness Week in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official weeks that are set aside to increase awareness of serious illnesses 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 June 13-19, 2021, as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day on June 19, 2021; and

**WHEREAS,** Sickle cell disease is a chronic hereditary blood disorder that can cause severe pain and result in damage to the brain and other vital organs like the kidneys, liver, spleen and heart; and

**WHEREAS,** People who have the disease but do not experience the symptoms are said to have the sickle cell trait; currently, an estimated 100,000 Americans are living with the disease; and

**WHEREAS,** Frequent pain episodes can result in necrosis of the hips, knees, ankle and shoulder; there can be entrapment of blood in the spleen, severe anemia, acute lung complications (acute chest syndrome), priapism in males, and difficult pregnancy for women of child bearing age; and

**WHEREAS,** These life-threatening complications can develop rapidly, including infections of the blood (sepsis), meningitis and stroke; stroke can be either silent (no overt symptoms) or clinical (with symptoms) and can affect children as young as 18 months; and

**WHEREAS,** Up to 40% of children will have had either a silent or clinical stroke by the age of 18 and this impacts their ability to learn and/or hold a job; and

**WHEREAS,** Sickle cell disease is most common in Africans and African-Americans, but the disease can also be found in other demographics, primarily in South and Central America, the Caribbean, Mediterranean countries and India; approximately 1 in 12 African-Americans are diagnosed with the trait; and

**WHEREAS,** Sickle cell disease affects approximately 100,000 Americans and 10% of these patients reside in New York State, and 80% of those patients live in the New York City area; and

**WHEREAS,** Sickle cell disease is the most costly per patient to New York State Medicaid, costing \$15,000/year/patient; and

**WHEREAS,** The only known cure for sickle cell disease is through a transplant of bone marrow or stem cells; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 13-19, 2021, as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Week 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.