Senate Resolution No. 101

BY: Senator PARKER

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim June 2, 2023, as Gun Violence Awareness Day in the State of New York

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

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim June 2, 2023, as Gun Violence Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Gun Violence Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, On June 2, 2023, American citizens are encouraged to wear orange to show their desire to end gun violence in our great Nation; and

WHEREAS, On January 21, 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a 15-year-old high school student from the south side of Chicago, marched in President Obama's 2nd Inaugural Parade; one week later, she was tragically shot and killed; and

WHEREAS, Deeply saddened by her senseless death, Hadiya Pendleton's friends and classmates chose to wear the color orange to remember her life; they chose this bright color because that is what hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others from unfortunate accidents; and

WHEREAS, On June 2, 2015, what would have been Hadiya Pendleton's 18th Birthday, a broad-based coalition asked people nationwide to join her friends in honoring her life, plus those of the 91 Americans shot and killed every day; and

WHEREAS, What started in a south side high school to celebrate Hadiya Pendleton has turned into a nationwide movement to honor all lives cut short by gun violence; Wear Orange Day is also a celebration of life and a call to action to help save lives from gunfire; and

WHEREAS, The Wear Orange movement, which was inspired by bold and creative Chicago teenagers who refused to be silent in the face of daily gun violence, reached an astonishing 220 million people in just one day; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious issue including prevention, intervention, education and outreach; and

WHEREAS, Increased awareness and coordination among all stakeholders is critical to the prevention of gun violence, the equal protection of our citizens, and to ensure our state's safety for our youth; now,

therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim June 2, 2023, as Gun Violence Awareness Day 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.