Senate Resolution No. 85

**BY:** Senator PARKER

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2023, as Alcohol Awareness Month in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to help increase awareness of serious health issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2023, as Alcohol Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Founded and sponsored by NCADD, Alcohol Awareness Month was established in 1987 to help reduce the stigma so often associated with alcoholism by encouraging communities to reach out to the American public each April with information about alcohol, alcoholism and recovery; and

**WHEREAS,** Alcoholism is a chronic, progressive disease, genetically predisposed and fatal if untreated; however, people can and do recover; it is estimated that as many as 20 million individuals and family members are living lives in recovery; and

**WHEREAS,** Alcohol Awareness Month provides a focused opportunity across America to increase awareness and understanding of alcoholism, its causes, effective treatment and recovery; and

**WHEREAS,** It is an opportunity to decrease stigma and misunderstandings in order to dismantle the barriers to treatment and recovery, and thus, make seeking help more readily available to those who suffer from this disease; and

**WHEREAS,** Each April, NCADD's National Network of Affiliates and other supporting organizations across the country will use this opportunity to address the Nation's No.1 public health problem through a broad range of media strategies, awareness campaigns, programs and events in their local communities; and

**WHEREAS,** An integral part of NCADD Alcohol Awareness Month is Alcohol-Free Weekend, which takes place on the first weekend of April to raise public awareness about the use of alcohol and how it may be affecting individuals, families, businesses and our communities; and

**WHEREAS,** During Alcohol-Free Weekend, NCADD extends an open invitation to all Americans to engage in three alcohol-free days; those individuals or families who experience difficulty or discomfort in this 72-hour experiment are urged to contact local NCADD affiliates, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Al-Anon to learn more about alcoholism and its early symptoms; and

**WHEREAS,** Alcoholism is a preventable, treatable disease; alcoholic-related problems are not likely to be reduced by strategies involving single interventions directed solely at the individual;

economic, political, social, and environmental forces that work together to encourage and perpetuate these problems must be addressed; and

**WHEREAS,** It is imperative that there be greater awareness of this serious health 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 Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2023, as Alcohol 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 Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.