Assembly Resolution No. 232

BY: M. of A. Tague

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 25-31, 2023, as Farmworker Awareness Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Hardworking American farmers provide New York State, the Nation, and much of the world with a safe, healthy, affordable, and abundant food supply; and

WHEREAS, Farmers boost our local economies by spending locally, attracting tourism, and keeping money in our communities; in the United States, agriculture is a thriving industry which provides $1.1 trillion in economic impact and provides food for an American population of more than 328 million, as well as a global people; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 25-31, 2023, as Farmworker Awareness Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Farmworker Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, Equitable Food Initiative (EFI), the workforce development and certification organization that partners with growers, farmworkers, retailers and consumer advocacy groups, is celebrating National Farmworker Awareness Week by encouraging growers, agricultural associations and consumers to share messages honoring the farmworkers who make it possible for Americans to have access to high-quality, fresh and safer fruits and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, National Farmworker Awareness Week is a designated week of action for communities to bring attention to the multiple challenges farmworkers face and honor their important and always essential contributions to the food supply chain; and

WHEREAS, During the Covid-19 pandemic, farmworkers were recognized as essential, but they have always played a vital role in the food supply chain; and

WHEREAS, These past few years has helped the world shine a light on the men and women of many essential industries, including agriculture; now more than ever, consumers have taken an interest in where their food comes from and the special people who help get it from farm to table; and

WHEREAS, Essential to getting fresh and healthy food on supermarket shelves, farmworkers grow, harvest, process and pack fresh food for stores every day; nearly 2.6 million farmworkers are on farms and ranches throughout the United States, performing hard and skilled labor; and

WHEREAS, Farmworkers are the root of the Nation's supply chain and ensure the availability, quality, and safety of our food; farmers

contribute $164.7 billion to the United States gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, The celebration of National Farmworker Awareness Week is in recognition of farmers from all racial, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds and walks of life, who feed us and our families every day and of the importance of agriculture as a vital industry and economic driver in New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 25-31, 2023, as Farmworker 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 Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.