Assembly Resolution No. 49

BY: M. of A. Magnarelli

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 22-28, 2023, as National Passenger Safety 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 concerns that affect the lives of each and every New Yorker; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 22-28, 2023, as National Passenger Safety Week in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Everyone has an important role to play in increasing road safety; in 2019, passenger deaths accounted for 25 percent of all traffic fatalities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) preliminary estimates, traffic deaths increased seven percent in 2020, and 18 percent in the first six months of 2021; and

WHEREAS, Historic increases in traffic deaths occurred even though there was a 13 percent decrease in vehicles miles traveled; and

WHEREAS, NHTSA's data shows the main behaviors driving this increase were speeding, impaired driving and failure to wear seat belts; and

WHEREAS, Whether a driver is impaired by alcohol or drugs, is speeding, driving too aggressively, driving distracted or cannot stay awake at the wheel, bad driving choices put passengers at risk of serious injury or death; and

WHEREAS, Many of those lives might have been saved had a passenger in the car insisted the driver slow down, stop texting, or not get behind the wheel in the first place; and

WHEREAS, Passengers, especially teens and young adults, need education and encouragement to empower them to save lives by calling out unsafe driving in the car as it happens; and

WHEREAS, Parents should also be educated and encouraged to teach their children about the importance of speaking up or not getting in the car with someone who is drunk, drugged or distracted; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater awareness of this serious issue, and more must be done to increase activity at 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 January 22-28, 2023, as National Passenger Safety 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.