Assembly Resolution No. 615

BY: M. of A. Fahy

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim June 2023, as Scleroderma Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in recognizing official months established to increase awareness of serious diseases that affect the lives of citizens of New York; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim June 2023, as Scleroderma Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Scleroderma Month; and

WHEREAS, Scleroderma is a group of rare diseases that involve hardening and tightening of the skin and connective tissues; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 300,000 individuals in the United States are diagnosed with scleroderma; and

WHEREAS, Scleroderma may affect the skin, blood vessels, internal organs, and the digestive tract, and the signs and symptoms vary for each type of scleroderma; and

WHEREAS, Scleroderma affects women more often than men, most commonly occurs between the ages of 25 and 55, and can occur in children and infants; and

WHEREAS, While there currently is no cure, a variety of treatments can ease symptoms and improve the quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Raising awareness of scleroderma, particularly among health care professionals, is essential for faster diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, The Ann Steffens Scleroderma Research Foundation, based in the Capital District, is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving and improving the quality of lives through scleroderma education and awareness, and research; and

WHEREAS, This month is designated to raise public and professional awareness of scleroderma, provide support to patients and their families, and to promote more research to find improved treatments and eventually a cure; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim June 2023, as Scleroderma Awareness Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New

York, and to the Ann Steffens Scleroderma Research Foundation.