Assembly Resolution No. 698

BY: M. of A. McDonald

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

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months dedicated to raising awareness of serious conditions impacting the lives of citizens of New York State; 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 November 2023, as Epilepsy Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Epilepsy Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, Epilepsy is a neurological disorder characterized by seizures that consist of sudden and synchronized bursts of electrical energy that disrupt the brain's normal electrical pattern; it is a spectrum condition with a wide range of seizure types and control that varies from person to person; and

WHEREAS, These seizures may impact consciousness, movement or sensation, and create long-term effects on the lifestyles of individuals with epilepsy; and

WHEREAS, Approximately one-third of epilepsy patients live with uncontrolled seizures due to a lack of suitable clinically available treatment; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that epilepsy impacts roughly 3.4 million Americans and 50 million people worldwide; 1 in 26 people will develop epilepsy and approximately 50,000 people will die from an epilepsy-related cause; and

WHEREAS, Epilepsy affects more people than multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and Parkinson's combined; in the United States, 200,000 new cases of epilepsy are diagnosed each year; and

WHEREAS, While anyone can develop epilepsy at any age, some common risk factors include babies who are born small for their age or with abnormal areas in the brain, babies who have seizures in the first month of their life, and people with serious brain injury or lack of oxygen to the brain, brain tumors, infections of the brain, cerebral palsy, family history of seizures, Alzheimer's disease (late in the illness), Autism spectrum disorder, use of cocaine, or strokes resulting from the blockage of arteries; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, epilepsy affects approximately 470,000 children 17 years or younger, and approximately 3 million adults aged 18 and up have epilepsy; and

WHEREAS, More than 570,000 adults aged 65 and older have the condition, as the number of epilepsy cases in the elderly is increasing with the baby boom generation reaching retirement age; and

WHEREAS, It costs the United States approximately $15.5 billion each year in caring for and treating epilepsy; and

WHEREAS, While medications and other treatments help many people of all ages who live with epilepsy, more than a million people continue to have seizures that can severely limit their school achievements, employment prospects and participation in all of life's experiences; and

WHEREAS, Even with the roughly 150,000 new cases of epilepsy in the United States each year, epilepsy continues to be one of least understood major chronic medical conditions; thus, it is the hope that a month of awareness in New York State and beyond will make for greater public awareness and increase the activity at the local, state and national level; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim November 2023, as Epilepsy 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 the Epilepsy Foundation.