

Senate Resolution No. 121

**BY:** Senator PERSAUD

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2025, as Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** Esophageal cancer is one of the fastest growing cancer diagnoses in the United States; in 2023, roughly 21,560 new esophageal cancer cases were diagnosed (17,030 in men and 4,530 in women), and 16,120 people died from esophageal cancer (12,920 in men and 3,200 in women); and

**WHEREAS,** Esophageal cancer kills one American every 36 minutes each and every day; and

**WHEREAS,** Esophageal cancer is among the deadliest of cancers, with fewer than one in five patients surviving five years; and

**WHEREAS,** Esophageal cancer has low survival rates because it is usually discovered at advanced stages when treatment outcomes are poor; and

**WHEREAS,** Esophageal cancer in the United States is most often caused by persistent heartburn or Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD), yet many who are at risk are unaware of the potential danger GERD can present when it occurs over several weeks or months; and

**WHEREAS,** Esophageal cancer can be a silent killer with patients often unaware that the cough, hoarse voice, sore throat or chest pain they suffer can be signs of GERD and are reasons to discuss screening for esophageal cancer with their health care professional; and

**WHEREAS,** Esophageal cancer can develop from GERD when fluids from the stomach splash up to create cellular change in the esophagus resulting in a precancerous condition known as Barrett's Esophagus which can lead to a 125-fold increase in a patient's risk of developing esophageal cancer; and

**WHEREAS,** Esophageal cancer can be prevented through early detection of its precursor, Barrett's Esophagus, which can be treated with new, curative outpatient techniques; and

**WHEREAS,** Esophageal Cancer Action Network (ECAN) is working to improve public awareness of the link between heartburn and cancer and supports progress in early detection and treatment of esophageal cancer; and

**WHEREAS,** Esophageal cancer awareness, along with improvements in prevention, early detection and treatment strategies, will enhance the health and well-being of all Americans; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2025, as Esophageal Cancer 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.