

**BY:** Senator GOUNARDES

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 25-31, 2026, as Physician Anesthesiologists Week in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official weeks designated to raising awareness of the vital role and value of physician anesthesiologists in delivering anesthesia care within the United States healthcare system, now and in the future; 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 25-31, 2026, as Physician Anesthesiologists Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Physician Anesthesiologist Week; and

**WHEREAS,** Physician anesthesiologists have advanced patient care throughout the history of modern medicine; instrumental in the pivotal milestones of medical history, physician anesthesiologists' innovations have shaped what is possible in surgical care, pain management, and critical care; and

**WHEREAS,** The innovation and advancement of airway management and intubation techniques and devices by physician anesthesiologists ensures that every breath patients take during surgery is protected; and

**WHEREAS,** The innovation of the Apgar Score-a test created by anesthesiologist Dr. Virginia Apgar which ensures a baby's health is assessed immediately following birth-significantly transformed obstetric care; and

**WHEREAS,** The Anesthesia Care Team model, led by physician anesthesiologists, is widely recognized as the gold standard of care practiced in all hospitals in New York State to protect patients and provide the highest standard of care; and

**WHEREAS,** Physician anesthesiologists' innovation of patient safety science and safety monitoring, including pulse oximetry, have changed how patients' heart and lung function and blood oxygenation levels are monitored in the operating room; standards on basic anesthetic monitoring have heralded the largest sustained reduction in perioperative mortality of any specialty; and

**WHEREAS,** The innovation of regional anesthesia, such as nerve blocks, spinal anesthesia, and epidurals, by physician anesthesiologists has transformed pain management options, reducing opioid use and combatting the opioid epidemic; and

**WHEREAS,** The innovation of cardiothoracic, transplant, and trauma anesthesia by physician anesthesiologists makes once-impossible,

high-risk surgeries, such as open-heart and transplant surgery, possible; and

**WHEREAS,** Every person in New York is entitled to and should have universal access to the highest level of anesthesia care, every patient regardless of socioeconomic status deserves a physician anesthesiologist leading their care, advocating for them, and safeguarding them when they are under anesthesia and unable to advocate for themselves; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 25-31, 2026, as Physician Anesthesiologists Week in the State of New York, in recognition of its appreciation for physician anesthesiologists who serve as the leaders of the Anesthesia Care Team, and for critical care specialists who ensure the safety and health of surgical and chronic pain patients every day; 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 Board Members of the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists.