Senate Resolution No. 1520

BY: Senator FERNANDEZ

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 2026, as Recovery Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months that are set aside to increase awareness of serious conditions that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 2026, as Recovery Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Recovery Month; and

WHEREAS, National Recovery Month, sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is a national observance held every September to educate Americans about substance use treatment and mental health services which can enable those with mental and substance use disorders to live healthy and rewarding lives; and

WHEREAS, National Recovery Month works to encourage and support new evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the emergence of a strong and proud recovery community, and the dedication of service providers and community members across the nation who make recovery in all its forms possible; and

WHEREAS, This vital observance began in 1989, as Treatment Works! Month, which honored the work of substance use treatment professionals in the field; the observance evolved into National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in 1998, when it expanded to include celebrating the accomplishments of individuals in recovery from substance use disorders; the observance evolved once again in 2011, to National Recovery Month which includes mental illness; and

WHEREAS, Entering its 36th year, Recovery Month celebrates the gains made by those in recovery; and

WHEREAS, Recovery Month highlights the achievements of individuals who have reclaimed their lives in long-term recovery and honors the treatment and recovery service providers who make recovery possible; and

WHEREAS, Recovery Month also promotes the message that recovery in all of its forms is possible and encourages citizens to take action to help expand and improve the availability of effective prevention, treatment, and recovery services for those in need; and

WHEREAS, The observance of Recovery Month emphasizes that while the road to recovery may be difficult, the benefits of preventing and overcoming behavioral health conditions are significant and valuable to individuals, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, Recovery Month promotes the societal benefits of prevention, treatment, and recovery for substance use and mental disorders, celebrates people in recovery, lauds the contributions of treatment and service providers, and promotes the message that recovery in all its forms is possible and spreads the positive message that behavioral health is essential to overall health, that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, to proclaim September 2026, as Recovery 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.