

Senate Resolution No. 1741

**BY:** Senator RIVERA

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim  
May 2026 as Asthma and Allergy Awareness 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 health issues 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, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 2026 as Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS,** Each year, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) declares May as National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month since it is peak season for those suffering from asthma and allergies; and

**WHEREAS,** Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month is a perfect time to educate people about these common diseases; and

**WHEREAS,** There is no cure for asthma and allergies, and many deaths are preventable with proper treatment and care; 9-11 people die from asthma per day; and

**WHEREAS,** About 4,750,000 children in the United States currently have asthma; and

**WHEREAS,** Nearly 28 million people in the United States have asthma, and the numbers are increasing each year; and

**WHEREAS,** Over 1,887,622 adults and children in the State of New York have asthma; and

**WHEREAS,** Asthma is one of the most common noncommunicable diseases among children; and

**WHEREAS,** About 1,000,000 individuals per year visit emergency departments because of asthma's effects; and

**WHEREAS,** Asthma is a leading cause of hospitalizations and school absences due to a chronic disease among children; and

**WHEREAS,** The total economic cost of asthma in the United States was \$81,900,000,000 per year, from 2008 to 2013, which is approximately \$115,000,000,000 when adjusted for inflation; and

**WHEREAS,** Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous individuals in the United States face the highest burden of asthma; and

**WHEREAS,** Asthma is a manageable disease that claimed the lives of over 3,100 people in the United States in 2023, including 254 people in New York; and

**WHEREAS,** People with asthma and food allergies need access to affordable health insurance and the medications and devices they need at affordable prices; and

**WHEREAS,** 21,800,000 people in the United States have food allergies, including about 3,900,000 children; and

**WHEREAS,** Food allergies have increased among children in the United States over the past 20 years with the greatest increase in Black children; further, children with food allergies are two to four times more likely to have asthma or other allergic diseases; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body, representing the people of the State of New York, supports the increase in public awareness regarding asthma and allergies; it is important to educate all citizens of the State of New York of the serious and potentially life-threatening nature of asthma and allergies; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 2026 as Asthma and Allergy 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.