Senate Resolution No. 1774

BY: Senator COMRIE

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim October 2, 2026, as Wrongful Conviction Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of International Wrongful Conviction Day

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are set aside to acknowledge vital 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 rightfully proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim October 2, 2026, as Wrongful Conviction Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of International Wrongful Conviction Day; and

WHEREAS, Every person is endowed with human dignity and value, and this day raises awareness for the innocent who were unjustly incarcerated for a crime they did not commit; and

WHEREAS, Wrongful Conviction Day, commemorated on October 2, 2026, is 24 hours dedicated to honor those with a life stolen; and

WHEREAS, This day was set aside in 2013 to recognize the necesity of taking a day in the calendar year to hold space for this unjust issue; and

WHEREAS, October 2nd is a day where communities can focus on, discuss, and hopefully find remedies for this issue that has harmed so many lives, individually and collectively, around the world; and

WHEREAS, Wrongful convictions have been a shameful and pervasive issue in the history of New York State's justice system, especially before the advent of DNA testing; and

WHEREAS, This category of injustice not only robs an innocent person of their life, reputation, and dignity while the perpetrator of a heinous crime walks free, it exaggerates existing prejudices against Black and Brown communities as well as the intellectually disabled; and

WHEREAS, Today we not only honor those wrongfully convicted in New York, but also the organizations including Policy Inc., Family and Friends of the Wrongfully Convicted, LIFE Camp Inc., King of Kings Foundation, and Man Up! U.S.A. Inc. that have fought on behalf of these victims in our state; every day their work inspires us to continue to commit our sincerest efforts to the eradication of such occurrences; and

WHEREAS, It is beneficial that there be greater awareness of Wrongful Conviction Day and more should be done to increase awareness at the local, State, and National levels to promote efforts and continued commitment to the eradication of wrongful convictions; now, therefore,

be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim October 2, 2026, as Wrongful Conviction Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of International Wrongful Conviction Day; 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.