

Senate Resolution No. 1824

**BY:** Senator PERSAUD

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 2026, as Developmental Disabilities 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 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, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 2026, as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Developmental disabilities are a group of conditions due to impairments in physical, learning, language, or behavioral areas that begin during the developmental period and may impact daily functioning throughout an individual's lifetime; and

**WHEREAS,** According to national data, approximately one in six children in the United States has a developmental disability; and

**WHEREAS,** The New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities serves approximately 130,000 individuals with developmental disabilities; overall, over three million adult New Yorkers, roughly one in five, report a disability; and

**WHEREAS,** Individuals with developmental disabilities live, work, and volunteer in every neighborhood of this great Empire State; they are family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, teammates, and classmates; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1987, President Ronald Reagan first proclaimed the month of March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and called upon Americans everywhere to provide the encouragement and opportunities necessary so that people with developmental disabilities can reach their highest potential; and

**WHEREAS,** During Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, New Yorkers are encouraged to recognize and celebrate individuals with developmental disabilities who are part of the communities where we live, work, play, and volunteer; and

**WHEREAS,** Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month seeks to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in employment, education, housing, civic engagement, and community life while recognizing the ongoing barriers to equality; and

**WHEREAS,** Despite the many positive changes in societal attitude, workplace and educational culture, health care, available resources, and knowledge concerning people with developmental disabilities, much

remains to be done to address the prevalence of negative stereotypes, lingering misinformation, and subsequent discrimination and barriers some of these vulnerable citizens face; and

**WHEREAS,** It is crucial that individuals with developmental disabilities have access to the resources which allow them to live secure and fulfilling lives, including education, housing, employment, and recreational activities; and

**WHEREAS,** Individuals with developmental disabilities are an essential part of our greater New York community, and they deserve respect, recognition, and support both during and outside of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 2026, as Developmental Disabilities 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.