

Senate Resolution No. 1991

BY: Senator GRIFFO

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
May 2026, as Foster Care Month in the State of New
York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those observances which bring awareness to important issues affecting the citizens of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is the further sense of this Legislative Body that the children of the State of New York are our most precious resource and that, as such, they merit the support, encouragement, and protection of this State and Nation; 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 Foster Care Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Children and youth in foster care are among the most vulnerable members of our society, and they depend on the compassion, dedication, and support of foster families, kinship caregivers, caseworkers, and community organizations to provide safe and stable environments; and

WHEREAS, Foster Care Month serves as an opportunity to raise awareness about the needs of children in foster care, to recognize the commitment of foster parents and child welfare professionals, and to encourage community involvement in supporting youth and families; and

WHEREAS, Proclaiming May as Foster Care Month also renews the commitment to ensuring a bright future for more than 400,000 children and youth in foster care; and

WHEREAS, The House of Good Shepherd of Utica, New York, is one organization that is committed to serving those in foster care; for over 154 years, The House of the Good Shepherd has served children and families throughout Oneida County and the surrounding region, providing residential programs, mental and behavioral health services, foster care, and special education that strengthen and support communities; and

WHEREAS, The House of Good Shepherd and other organizations throughout the State continue to play a vital role in supporting foster children and families, helping to ensure safety, stability, and positive outcomes for youth in care; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper to recognize the resilience of children and youth in foster care and to reaffirm our collective responsibility to ensure they have the resources, support, and opportunities needed to thrive; Foster Care Month is set aside to promote opportunities and contribute to lifting the quality of life of

the youth of this noble Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 2026, as Foster Care Month in the State of New York; 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 to The House of the Good Shepherd.