

Senate Resolution No. 2063

BY: Senator PERSAUD

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
May 25, 2026, as Missing Children's Day in the State
of New York

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in recognizing official days that highlight critical issues affecting its citizens, especially its children; and

WHEREAS, May 25th has been nationally recognized as National Missing Children's Day since 1983 and internationally recognized as International Missing Children's Day since 2001; and

WHEREAS, National Missing Children's Day was established in honor of Etan Patz, a six-year-old boy who disappeared on his way to school in New York City in 1979 and whose case became a symbol of the movement to protect missing children in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) was established by John and Reve Walsh after the abduction and murder of their six-year-old son Adam; John and Reve Walsh channeled their painful experience of losing Adam to create NCMEC in 1984; and

WHEREAS, Today, NCMEC operates 16 Congressionally-designated programs to find missing children, reduce child sexual exploitation, and prevent child victimization; and

WHEREAS, In 2025, NCMEC received over 130,000 calls related to missing and exploited children through its national toll-free hotline, 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678); and

WHEREAS, In 2025, NCMEC received more than 32,000 reports of missing children, including 2,582 reports of missing children from New York; and

WHEREAS, NCMEC manages the AMBER Alert Secondary Distribution Program, and as of December, 2025, more than 1,300 children have been recovered as a result of AMBER Alert activations; and

WHEREAS, NCMEC supports the resolution of long-term missing children's cases by creating age progression images and facial and skull reconstructions; assisting in biometric collection and analysis; and engaging the public to identify unknown deceased children through the Help ID Me initiative; and

WHEREAS, Through its work, NCMEC remains a beacon of hope and a powerful advocate for children's safety, embodying an unwavering commitment to preventing abduction and exploitation and assisting in the safe recovery of children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 25, 2026, as Missing

Children's Day in the State of New York, recognizing the efforts of families, law enforcement, and organizations such as NCMEC that work to bring missing children home and recognize that every child deserves a safe childhood; 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 the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.