Assembly Resolution No. 1204

BY: M. of A. Lunsford

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 2026, as Early Intervention Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The early years of a child's life are critical physical, mental, and emotional development; and

WHEREAS, In the first few years of life, more than 1 million new neural connections are formed every second, making the years 0-3 among the most important in a child's overall development; and

WHEREAS, Children with developmental delays and disabilities benefit most when those disabilities are addressed before age 3, with 74 percent of children who receive Early Intervention Services demonstrating more than expected growth; and

WHEREAS, Early Intervention is the term used to describe the services and supports that are available to babies and young children under the age of three with developmental delays and disabilities and their families, including speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, counseling and other types of services based on the needs of the child and family; and

WHEREAS, These services are critical to a child's lifelong development and provide health, social and economic benefits to a child and their family; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Early Intervention Program (EIP), administered by the State's Department of Health through the Bureau of Early Intervention, is part of the national Early Intervention Program for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families; it was first created in Congress in 1983 under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the Early Intervention Program in New York State was established in Article 25 of the Public Health Law on July 1, 1993; and

WHEREAS, Young children across New York State are not receiving timely and comprehensive early childhood developmental services; since 2017, there has been a 27 percent decline in children who received timely services; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that New York's citizens know about Early Intervention services available to infants and toddlers born with developmental delays and disabilities so that families may take advantage of every opportunity to improve the health and well-being of their children; and

WHEREAS, Early Intervention services and providers can help a family learn the best ways to care for their child, how to support and promote their child's development, and how to include their child in their

family and community life; and

WHEREAS, The observance of Early Intervention Awareness Month in the State of New York provides an opportunity to recognize the availability and importance of Early Intervention providers and services in New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 2026, as Early Intervention Awareness 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.