

Assembly Resolution No. 1218

BY: M. of A. Buttenschon

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
May 3-9, 2026, as Small Business Week in the State
of New York

WHEREAS, From Montauk to Buffalo, Plattsburgh to Binghamton and every community in-between, small businesses are the heart of our communities and the American economy, employing more than half of our Nation's workers; and

WHEREAS, Whether it is the diverse cuisine in the Mohawk Valley, the unique wineries in the Finger Lakes, the artful breweries in the Southern Tier, or the family owned businesses of New York City, our small businesses display the innovation and passion of New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, When we support small businesses, jobs are created, and local communities preserve their unique culture: and

WHEREAS, According to the 2025 Annual Report on the State of Small Business prepared by Empire State Development, small businesses continue to be a significant economic driver in New York State with an estimated 94 percent of New York businesses having fewer than 100 employees, employing more than 34 percent of the workforce; and

WHEREAS, The Upstate New York District offices of the U.S. NY Small Business Association, which services 34 counties in New York State with offices in Syracuse, Elmira and Albany, facilitated 587 loans in Fiscal Year 2025, with a value of \$205 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, Small businesses overcome numerous challenges, both economic and with day-to-day operations, in order to consistently and reliably provide products, services, and jobs to our communities; and

WHEREAS, New York State continues to actively support minority and women-owned business enterprises and veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, Small businesses of all kinds, from farms and restaurants to antique stores and landscapers, to name a few, are crucial to the health of our communities and to the State's economy overall, but have been greatly tested during these past few years; and

WHEREAS, The innovation, diversity, competitive strength, job creation, and quality of life that small businesses bring to our economy are vital elements for our State's long-term economic health; and

WHEREAS, The entrepreneurial spirit of New York residents has led to the creation and growth of emerging agricultural industries in New York, such as craft beverages, artisanal foods, and the production of hemp and hops; and

WHEREAS, Small businesses showed great ingenuity and resilience by adapting quickly to pandemic related restrictions and weathered economic hardship; and

WHEREAS, The future welfare of our State depends on the continued development of small businesses; and

WHEREAS, By renewing our commitment to supporting small businesses, we can maintain our global competitiveness and build a stronger Nation where everyone can succeed; and

WHEREAS, When we join National Small Business Week, celebrated since 1963, we join in our country's recognition of the contributions of small businesses to the American economy and their importance in ensuring our local communities remain as vibrant as tomorrow as they are today; and

WHEREAS, The members of the New York State Legislature wish to proclaim their recognition of small businesses as a crucial element in the economy of New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 3-9, 2026, as Small Business Week 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.