

Assembly Resolution No. 1238

BY: M. of A. DeStefano

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2026 as Bullying Prevention 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 serious issues 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, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2026 as Bullying Prevention Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Bullying Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, Bullying is comprised of direct behaviors such as teasing, taunting, threatening, hitting, and stealing that are initiated by one or more students against a target, as well as indirect behaviors such as spreading rumors and acting in other ways to cause another person to be socially isolated through intentional exclusion, with all such behaviors, direct or indirect, amounting to physical or psychological intimidation occurring repeatedly over time to create an ongoing pattern of harassment and abuse; and

WHEREAS, Race, age, religion, physical disability, physical appearance, socioeconomic status and various other factors can be the basis of bullying and anyone can be a target; and

WHEREAS, People who bully others are at increased risk for substance abuse, academic problems, and violence later in adolescence and adulthood; in addition, those individuals who stand by passively watching or actively encouraging bullying are also affected by these hostile acts; they encourage bullying by creating an audience, they may become desensitized to cruelty, they may learn to imitate bullying behavior and become bullies themselves, and/or they may be fearful for their own safety, adding to their own insecurity; and

WHEREAS, Today, nearly 30% of all students are either bullies or victims of bullying, and 160,000 young people stay home from school every day because of their fear of bullying; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the past year, approximately 20% of high school students in the United States reported being bullied at their school, as well as about 15% who claimed they were bullied online; and

WHEREAS, Individuals who choose to practice unselfish generosity and who lead by example tend to leave a trail of positive feelings in their wake; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be continued public awareness of this serious issue, and to encourage all New Yorkers to practice

kindness toward all people; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2026 as Bullying Prevention 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 New York.