

Assembly Resolution No. 1286

**BY:** M. of A. Rules (Eachus)

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim November 2026, as Hospice and Palliative Care Awareness Month in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** New York State places the highest priority on the health and well-being of all our citizens; and

**WHEREAS,** Honoring patient preferences is a critical element in providing quality end-of-life care; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim November 2026, as Hospice and Palliative Care Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Hospice and Palliative Care Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS,** For more than 40 years, hospice has helped provide comfort and dignity to millions of people, allowing them to spend their final months at home, surrounded by the people important to them; and

**WHEREAS,** The hospice model is built on an interdisciplinary, team-oriented approach to treatment and support, including expert medical care, quality symptom control, and comprehensive pain management as a foundation of care; and

**WHEREAS,** Beyond providing clinical treatment, hospice attends to the patient's emotional, spiritual and social needs, and provides family services like caregiver training, respite care, and bereavement support; and

**WHEREAS,** Community-based palliative care, which delivers expertise to improve quality of life through pain and symptom control and other support, can be provided at any time during a serious illness, and given that hospice organizations are some of the best providers of community-based palliative care; and

**WHEREAS,** In an increasingly fragmented and broken health care system, hospice is one of the few sectors that demonstrates how health care can and should work at its best for the people it serves; and

**WHEREAS,** 1.61 million Medicare beneficiaries living with life-limiting illness and their families received care from the nation's hospice programs in communities throughout the United States in 2019; and

**WHEREAS,** Data shows significant changes in patient diagnoses, calling for innovation in how hospices provide care to those in need; and

**WHEREAS,** Hospice and palliative care organizations are advocates and

educators about advance care planning that help individuals make decisions about the care they want; and

**WHEREAS,** Although the criteria to be enrolled in hospice and palliative care differs, both services manage symptoms to help keep your loved one comfortable; and

**WHEREAS,** Both share a holistic and integrative approach to the care by treating the whole person, physically, emotionally, spiritually, and socially; and both types of care focus on relieving symptoms, pain and stress, for the patient, their caregivers, and their family; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim November 2026, as Hospice and Palliative Care Awareness 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 the State of New York.