

**BY:** M. of A. Zinerman

**RECOGNIZING** May 2026, as Myositis Awareness Month  
in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and bring awareness to serious health conditions that impact residents of the State of New York, particularly those that are rare, underdiagnosed, and require increased public understanding and research; and

**WHEREAS,** Residents of the State of New York are among those affected by myositis and other rare diseases, and nearly one in ten Americans are living with a rare disease; and

**WHEREAS,** Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (collectively referred to as myositis) are rare, chronic, autoimmune muscle wasting diseases; myositis often features debilitating muscle inflammation and other symptoms such as pain, fatigue, and trouble swallowing; myositis can result in myositis-associated interstitial lung disease; and

**WHEREAS,** More research is needed to identify the causes and modes of treatments for the myositis group of diseases, which includes anti-MDA5 autoantibody positive myositis, antisynthetase syndrome, dermatomyositis, juvenile dermatomyositis, immune-mediated necrotizing myopathy, inclusion body myositis, and polymyositis; and

**WHEREAS,** Myositis is difficult to diagnose, often resulting in delayed treatment, and individuals generally experience difficulty finding a health care provider with expertise regarding their condition; and

**WHEREAS,** All who suffer with myositis experience reduced quality of life, especially as no cure has been found and life expectancy is shortened, especially for those with inclusion body myositis; women and people of color with all forms of myositis experience particularly pronounced health disparities; and

**WHEREAS,** The Myositis Association (TMA) is the leading international patient advocacy organization serving the myositis community, focusing on patient services, education, research, and public awareness to achieve a world without myositis; and

**WHEREAS,** The Myositis Association is organizing a nationwide observance of May 2026, as Myositis Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS,** All residents of New York are encouraged to come together, learn more about all the forms of myositis and its symptoms, and support the families in our community who will benefit from greater awareness of these rare diseases; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize May 2026, as Myositis 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 Myositis Association.