Assembly Resolution No. 1488

BY: M. of A. Ra

RECOGNIZING May 28, 2026, as National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) Donor Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days which enhance awareness of meaningful causes and pay tribute to those individuals whose extraordinary generosity and compassion save lives; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to recognize May 28, 2026, as National Marrow Donor Program Donor Day in the State of New York, and to honor New York's NMDP life-saving donors; and

WHEREAS, Every three to four minutes, someone in the United States is diagnosed with a blood cancer; and

WHEREAS, A bone marrow or blood stem cell transplant can cure or treat more than 75 diseases, including leukemia, lymphoma, aplastic anemia, and sickle cell disease; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 75 percent of patients do not have a fully matched donor within their family and must rely on the NMDP to help locate an altruistic volunteer donor of marrow, blood stem cells, or cord blood; and

WHEREAS, For nearly 40 years, NMDP has provided hope and healing to patients by managing the national registry of volunteer blood stem cell donors, and in the summer of 2026 will reach the remarkable milestone of facilitating 150,000 bone marrow and blood stem cell transplants made possible through the selfless commitment of volunteer donors; and

WHEREAS, Young donors between the ages of 18 and 35 are especially needed to join the registry, as research demonstrates that younger donors often contribute to more successful transplant outcomes; and

WHEREAS, NMDP partners with college students across the State of New York to host donor recruitment events on more than 34 college and university campuses in 2026, including efforts at Hofstra University that resulted in nearly 80 newly registered potential donors; and

WHEREAS, Eight institutions of higher education in New York State currently maintain dedicated NMDP chapters, including the University at Buffalo, New York Institute of Technology, CUNY Hunter College, Stony Brook University, Syracuse University, Hamilton College, New York University, and Cornell University; and

WHEREAS, New York State is home to 13 transplant centers that provide these life-saving treatments, as well as six collection and apheresis centers that collect blood stem cells and bone marrow from

volunteer donors; and

WHEREAS, This resolution is inspired by the 366,275 New Yorkers currently listed on the NMDP registry who stand ready to donate, and by the 730 New Yorkers who have answered the call to provide life-saving donations during the past five years; and

WHEREAS, Designating May 28, 2026, as NMDP Donor Day in the State of New York will provide an opportunity to recognize these selfless donors, raise public awareness, and encourage more individuals to join the registry in support of future life-saving transplants; and

WHEREAS, On May 28, 2026, members of the public who meet eligibility criteria will have the opportunity to inquire about joining the registry at the New York State Legislative Office Building; and

WHEREAS, The countless New Yorkers who have joined the NMDP registry, and those who have gone on to donate bone marrow or blood stem cells, embody the highest ideals of compassion, selflessness, and civic responsibility, offering hope and a second chance at life to patients and families facing devastating illness, often for complete strangers they may never meet; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing May 28, 2026, as NMDP Donor Day in the State of New York will provide an opportunity to recognize these selfless donors, raise public awareness, and encourage more individuals to join the registry in support of future life-saving transplants; and

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize May 28, 2026, as National Marrow Donor Program Donor Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body encourages all New Yorkers to learn more about blood stem cell donation and to consider joining the NMDP registry in order to help save lives.