

Assembly Resolution No. 1580

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

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim  
October 2026, as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in  
the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** Breast cancer remains one of the most pressing public health challenges facing women and families in the United States and the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Breast cancer is the second most common cancer affecting American women, with an estimated 321,910 new cases of invasive breast cancer and 60,730 new cases of ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) expected to be diagnosed in women in 2026; and

**WHEREAS,** Approximately 2,670 new cases of breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in men in 2026, and an estimated 42,140 women and 530 men are projected to die from the disease this year; and

**WHEREAS,** Breast cancer incidence has continued to rise by approximately one percent annually from 2012 through 2021, with an even steeper increase observed among women under the age of 50; and

**WHEREAS,** Despite the continued rise in incidence, mortality rates have declined steadily since 1989, falling by 44 percent overall and resulting in nearly 518,000 fewer breast cancer deaths nationwide due to advances in treatment and earlier detection through screening; and

**WHEREAS,** Self-examination and mammography remain among the most widely available and effective tools for early detection, while emerging technologies including ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), digital imaging, and advanced signal processing methods continue to improve diagnostic capabilities; and

**WHEREAS,** Significant advances in treatment, including novel drug therapies, hormone therapies, and bone marrow transplant procedures, have improved patient outcomes and quality of life; and

**WHEREAS,** Continued progress in genetic research, including the identification of genes associated with breast cancer risk, offers additional promise for prevention and treatment while underscoring the importance of thoughtful ethical considerations; and

**WHEREAS,** The five-year relative survival rate for women with invasive breast cancer is approximately 91 percent, and the ten-year relative survival rate is approximately 84 percent, while the five-year survival rate for localized disease is 99 percent, demonstrating the lifesaving value of early detection and timely treatment; and

**WHEREAS,** New York State continues to serve as a national leader in medical and scientific research, receiving more National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding than any state except California; and

**WHEREAS,** Breast cancer advocacy organizations throughout New York State continue to promote increased research funding, equitable access to screening and treatment services, and greater public and legislative awareness of the disease; and

**WHEREAS,** Persistent disparities in outcomes remain a matter of grave concern, as Black women experience a 38 percent higher mortality rate from breast cancer than White women despite lower incidence rates, underscoring the urgent need to address inequities in healthcare access, diagnosis, and treatment; and

**WHEREAS,** The New York State Legislature reaffirms its commitment to supporting vigorous breast cancer research, advancing technologies for detection and treatment, and ensuring that women and their families have access to information, resources, and medical expertise; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim October 2026, as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the State of New York, and to encourage all citizens to recognize the importance of breast cancer awareness, education, research, prevention, and early detection; 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.