

**BY:** M. of A. Rosenthal

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim June 2025, as Cytomegalovirus Awareness Month in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** The State of New York takes great pride in recognizing serious diseases by proclaiming official months to increase awareness of such concerns, which affect thousands of New Yorkers; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim June 2025, as Cytomegalovirus Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2011, Congress passed a resolution naming June as National CMV Awareness Month; CDC takes this opportunity to increase awareness of congenital cytomegalovirus (CMV) among healthcare providers, pregnant women, and parents; and

**WHEREAS,** CMV is the most common viral infection transmitted from a pregnant woman to her unborn child, and the leading non-genetic cause of deafness in children; the majority of people who are infected with CMV have no signs or symptoms, and while there are no harmful side effects, it can be devastating to a fetus; and

**WHEREAS,** One in 200 children are born with congenital CMV and roughly 1 in 5 of those babies will have long-term health problems such as hearing loss, microcephaly, intellectual deficits and vision abnormalities; and

**WHEREAS,** Each year, 400 children die from congenital CMV, in part because the majority of infants are asymptomatic at birth; and

**WHEREAS,** In adults, the CDC estimates over half of adults have been infected with CMV by age 40; and

**WHEREAS,** CMV is also transmitted by contact with saliva and urine, often from diaper-wearing children to adults; pregnant women often get CMV from their toddlers, especially toddlers in day care, as nearly one in three children are infected by age five; and

**WHEREAS,** It is difficult for mothers to protect themselves from a virus carried by the children they care for, especially if they are unaware of the virus itself; less than one in five pregnant women are aware of cytomegalovirus; and

**WHEREAS,** Few women are warned about this infection, and according to a federal survey, less than half of obstetrician-gynecologists tell pregnant patients how to avoid CMV; and

**WHEREAS,** It is imperative that women are educated about the virus itself and simple preventative measures, such as not sharing food with

toddlers, and washing one's hands after changing infants and toddlers diapers; and

**WHEREAS**, A test for CMV can be done immediately upon receiving the results from the newborn infant hearing screening, which typically occurs at a facility before a newborn is discharged; and

**WHEREAS**, Significantly, infants who receive a timely diagnosis can be given hearing aids or access to early-intervention programs to have the best chance of learning to talk; recent evidence suggests that routine screening of newborns could allow infected infants to receive consistent monitoring and treatment if necessary, ultimately increasing his or her chance of optimized developmental care; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim June 2025, as Cytomegalovirus 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.