

**BY:** M. of A. DeStefano

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

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months that are set aside to increase awareness of serious illnesses that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 2025, as Dystonia Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Dystonia is a disorder that causes muscles in the body to contract and spasm involuntarily; individuals affected by this disorder cannot control or predict the movement of their bodies; and

**WHEREAS,** Dystonia is characterized by persistent or intermittent muscle contractions causing abnormal, often repetitive, movements, postures, or both; the movements are usually patterned and twisting, and may resemble a tremor; and

**WHEREAS,** This disorder is often initiated or worsened by voluntary movements, and symptoms may "overflow" into adjacent muscles; furthermore, dystonia is classified by clinical characteristics and cause, including changes or damage to the nervous system and inheritance; doctors use these classifications to guide diagnosis and treatment; and

**WHEREAS,** Symptoms of dystonia are usually chronic but may also appear only during "attacks" or episodes, in which case the dystonia is termed paroxysmal; sometimes symptoms occur only during certain movements such as walking, speaking or playing a musical instrument; and

**WHEREAS,** These symptoms may also affect a specific part of the body or many parts simultaneously, and may also be painful; and

**WHEREAS,** Although the cause of dystonia is not known, researchers believe that dystonia results from an abnormality in or damage to the basal ganglia or other brain regions that control movement; there may be abnormalities in the brain's ability to process neurotransmitters which help cells in the brain communicate with each other; there may also be abnormalities in the way the brain processes information and generates commands to move; and

**WHEREAS,** The third most common movement disorder following tremor and Parkinson's disease, dystonia affects approximately 300,000 people in North America; this disorder does not discriminate, affecting men, women and children of all ages and backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS,** Dystonia may be inherited or result from other health conditions such as stroke, physical trauma, other diseases, or as a side effect of certain medications; although there is no cure for dystonia, treatments are available including oral medications, botulinum toxin injections, and several types of surgery; and

**WHEREAS,** It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious health issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and national levels; now, therefore, be it

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