

## 2023-K2284

Assembly Resolution No. 2284

BY: M. of A. Rules (Hevesi)

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim  
September 7, 2024, as Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy  
Awareness Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize  
official days 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 7, 2024, as  
Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Day in the State of New York, in  
conjunction with World Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, Duchenne muscular dystrophy is the most common fatal  
genetic disorder diagnosed in childhood, affecting approximately one in  
every 5,000 male births (about 20,000 new cases each year worldwide);  
since the Duchenne gene is found on the X-chromosome, it primarily  
affects boys, however, it occurs across all races and cultures; and

WHEREAS, Duchenne muscular dystrophy results in progressive loss of  
strength and is caused by a mutation in the gene that encodes for  
dystrophin; since dystrophin is absent, the muscle cells are easily  
damaged; and

WHEREAS, Progressive muscle weakness caused by the condition leads to serious medical problems, particularly issues relating to the heart and lungs; young men with this debilitating disease typically live into their late twenties; and

WHEREAS, With the ability to affect anyone, Duchenne muscular dystrophy can be passed from parent to child, but approximately 35% of cases occur because of a random spontaneous mutation; and

WHEREAS, Although there are now seven FDA approved medical treatments that may help slow its progression, there is currently no cure for Duchenne muscular dystrophy; and

WHEREAS, World Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Day is meant to highlight the importance of identifying and communicating early signs of this genetic disorder and to promote the message that the key to managing this disease is early diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, As one of the first states to add Duchenne to its newborn screening panel, New York continues to be a leader in early diagnosis and treatment of this disease; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 7, 2024, as Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Day 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.