

## 2009-J4571

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor David A. Paterson to proclaim April 2010 as Autism Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor David A. Paterson to proclaim April 2010 as Autism Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with National Autism Awareness Month; in addition, World Autism Awareness Day is observed on April 2, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Autism Awareness Month has been recognized nationally since 1996; and

WHEREAS, Autism, the third most common developmental disability in the United States, is an affliction occurring in children before the age of three, recognized by unresponsiveness to human contact, deficits in language development, and peculiar reactions to environmental stimuli; and

WHEREAS, Currently, there are approximately 17,000 students in the State of New York, ages 4 to 21, who are classified as having autism; and

WHEREAS, Affecting over 1.5 million Americans, the cause of autism is unknown and is the result of a neurological disorder; this illness is known to be the fastest-growing developmental disability, with a present growth rate of 1,148%; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1990s, 1 in 10,000 children nationally were diagnosed with autism; today, the current ratio is 1 in 150 children nationally will be diagnosed with this neurological disorder; and

WHEREAS, Autism knows no racial, ethnic or social boundaries, and is four times more prevalent in boys than girls; to date, 1 in 58 boys are affected by autism; and

WHEREAS, Autism interferes with the normal development of the brain in

the areas of reasoning, social interaction and communication skills, causing people with autism to have difficulty relating to others; and WHEREAS, Over the past 30 years, significant progress has been made in the areas of research, medicine, diagnostic issues, and therapies for autism, resulting in improved quality of life for those with autism and their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, It is in the interest of New York State to recognize the achievements made and to continue these efforts by promoting the awareness and fostering the understanding of autism; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor David A. Paterson to proclaim April 2010 as Autism 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 David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York.