

## 2009-K1193

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

WHEREAS, 32.1-36.4 percent of babies born in New York State are delivered surgically; and

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization recommends a cesarean rate of no higher than 15 percent, stating that rates above this place mothers and babies under avoidable risks; and

WHEREAS, Current evidence suggests a safe VBAC (vaginal birth after cesarean) rate of 70-80 percent, yet only 7.1-7.3 percent of women with a previous cesarean in New York State have a VBAC; and

WHEREAS, There are at least 25 hospitals in New York State that refuse women with a previous cesarean their right to access the option of VBAC, and there are many more facilities with de facto VBAC bans because there are no care providers who deliver there that will support a trial of labor after a cesarean; and

WHEREAS, Women who undergo cesarean surgery have increased recovery time and are subject to increased complications such as increased rates of unexplained stillbirth, placental abnormalities, and uterine rupture; and

WHEREAS, The rate of cesarean deliveries is now at a historic high, and the U.S. ranks next to last in perinatal deaths and last in maternal deaths compared to all other industrialized countries; and

WHEREAS, While a cesarean can be lifesaving for a mother and baby in certain circumstances, maternal and child health are improved by preventing unnecessary cesareans; and

WHEREAS, ICAN, the International Cesarean Awareness Network (originally CPM-Cesarean Prevention Movement) was formed in Syracuse, New York, in 1982; and

WHEREAS, ICAN has declared April to be Cesarean Awareness Month; and  
WHEREAS, New York women should have access to full and complete information on the risks and benefits of vaginal birth and cesarean section in order to make informed choices about their health care; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor David A. Paterson to proclaim April 2010 as Cesarean 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.