

## 2011-K166

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Project Chernobyl upon the occasion of being designated a Center of Excellence in the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid disease and thyroid cancer

WHEREAS, Over the past 20 years, statistics have shown thyroid cancer is one of a few cancers on the rise in the United States; chances of getting thyroid cancer has increased more than three-fold during this time, and unlike many others, thyroid cancer affects a much younger population, more commonly women; and

WHEREAS, Scientists are still not sure what causes this rapid rise in cancer rates; some of the known causes are: exposure to radiation after nuclear tests; exposure to medical radiation, especially when young; and the introduction of ultrasound and better diagnostic equipment; and

WHEREAS, To many, the greatest peace-time nuclear accident ever, the meltdown at the Chernobyl power plant in Ukraine on April 26, 1986, is no more than a long-forgotten history lesson; this is not so to the hundreds of thousands of immigrants from that region who now reside in New York; this year marks the 25th Anniversary of this horrific event; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of its President, Dr. Daniel Igor Branovan, Project Chernobyl, a community-led effort to diagnose and treat thyroid cancer, has successfully launched and managed a road-based information campaign to educate the hundreds of thousands of immigrants to New York State from regions exposed to radiation after the Chernobyl nuclear accident of increased risks of developing thyroid cancer; and

WHEREAS, Project Chernobyl has also expanded the screening program to millions of New York State residents at increased risk of thyroid cancer due to work-related exposure, excessive diagnostic exposure to radiation, and toxic exposures during the 9/11 terrorist attack and subse-

quent clean-up efforts; and

WHEREAS, Project Chernobyl continues its efforts to serve the community affected by the Chernobyl nuclear accident; the team of Russian-speaking Head and Neck Cancer and Reconstructive surgeons from The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary (NYEEI), led by Thyroid Center Director Dr. Daniel Igor Branovan, coordinate diagnostic screenings and treatment of thyroid cancer patients; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when campaigns of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Project Chernobyl upon the occasion of being designated a Center of Excellence in the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid disease and thyroid cancer; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Daniel Igor Branovan, Director of the Thyroid Center, The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary and President of Project Chernobyl.