

2011-J1736

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May of 2011, as Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States, affecting those across every racial and ethnic population in both New York State and the rest of the country, developing more new cases each year than breast, prostate, lung and colon cancers combined; and

WHEREAS, In the United States in 2010, an estimated 74,010 people were diagnosed with skin cancer; and, an estimated 11,790 people died from skin cancer; and

WHEREAS, Skin cancer is a disease which will affect one in five Americans during the course of their lifetime and has resulted in nearly 800,000 Americans living with a history of melanoma and 13 million who are living with a history of nonmelanoma skin cancer; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 39,000 new cases of melanoma occur in men each year in the United States, and 29,000 in women, resulting in 5,700 and 3,000 deaths respectively; and

WHEREAS, The survival rate for patients whose melanoma is detected early, before the tumor has penetrated the skin, is about 99%, the survival rate falls to 15% for those with advanced disease; and

WHEREAS, Common causes of skin cancer include frequent unprotected outings in the harmful ultraviolet rays caused by both the sun and tanning beds, with frequent tanners receiving as much as 12 times the annual UVA dose compared to the dose they would receive from sun exposure alone, and increasing their chances of developing melanoma by 74%, as well as genetic factors such as skin type and tolerance to sunburn; and

WHEREAS, Skin cancer is a highly curable disease when treated early, thus preventing progression towards the disease's latter stages should be of utmost concern; and

WHEREAS, Increased awareness and education among all stakeholders, including federal and state governments, patient groups, medical

researchers, community leaders and organizers, the public and businesses, is critical to promote the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of skin cancer; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2011, as Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention 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 Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.