

2011-K720

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October of 2011 as Behavioral Health Recognition Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months that are set aside to increase awareness of serious issues 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, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October of 2011 as Behavioral Health Recognition Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Every year, New Yorkers across the state recover from mental illness and/or overcome their struggles with addiction; with personal determination and the support of family and friends, community members, and health professionals, they have turned the page on an illness and sought the promise of recovery; and

WHEREAS, The pain and suffering caused by behavioral illness are immeasurable for the individuals afflicted, their families and communities; almost 50 million Americans have serious emotional disorders or illnesses; and

WHEREAS, The consequences of untreated mental illnesses and emotional disturbances are quite clear; suicide is 30 times more common among people who are clinically depressed than those among the general population; and

WHEREAS, The exceptional contribution made by our military servicemen and their families also leads to stresses and burdens that manifest themselves in the form of behavioral illnesses; military families endure the challenges of multiple deployments and moves; spend holidays and life milestones apart from loved ones; juggle everyday tasks while a spouse, parent, son, or daughter is in harm's way; and honor the service of their loved ones and live with the memory of those lost; and

WHEREAS, New York's aging seniors have faced many more life experiences and have been at great risk of behavioral illness; the effects of treating physical illnesses and injuries in some have caused addictive

dependencies and behavioral disabilities; it is necessary to assist them in recognizing the symptoms of debilitating behavior and honor their personal recovery; and

WHEREAS, Addressing the complex behavioral health needs of children, youth, and families today is fundamental to the future of New York State; the need for comprehensive, coordinated behavioral health services for children, youth, and families places upon our community a critical responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Special tribute is due to the dedicated professionals and everyday citizens who help eliminate the stigma with skill and empathy, and who guide people through the treatment and recovery process; these particular individuals are offering a message of hope and understanding; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York understands that all illness must be addressed equally including awareness, referral and treatment; providing the highest level of commitment, dedication and caliber of service to those most at risk, in treatment, and in recovery requires the interagency coordination of support services; and

WHEREAS, New Yorkers benefit from better services where disorders can be managed, giving individuals the effective tools necessary to address their illness; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious issue, and more must be done to increase knowledge and

attentiveness at both the State and local levels to support and protect those in need; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October of 2011 as Behavioral Health Recognition 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.