

2011-K736

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October 24-28, 2011, as Walk with Me Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, An initiative created to give a face to victims of domestic violence, Walk with Me Week will take place October 24-28, 2011, simultaneously on college campuses across New York; and

WHEREAS, For the event, a silent procession of college students symbolizing victims of domestic violence will walk to bring students face-to-face with the reality of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence, also known as partner abuse, spouse abuse, intimate partner violence or battery, is a widespread problem that occurs when one person inflicts either emotional, physical or psychological injury to control another person that they have, or had, a relationship with; and

WHEREAS, The single largest cause of injury to women between the ages of 15-44 in the United States, domestic violence occurs among all ages, genders, races, educational backgrounds and socio-economic groups; each year, between two and four million women are battered and over 300,000 women experience domestic violence while they are pregnant, resulting in the leading cause of death among pregnant women; and

WHEREAS, In addition, nearly 25 percent of women have been raped and/or physically assaulted by an intimate partner at some point in their lives; it is estimated that between 40 and 70 percent of female murder victims are killed by their husbands or boyfriends, frequently in the context of an ongoing abusive relationship; and

WHEREAS, Women with a history of domestic violence report having a 60 percent higher rate of health problems than women with no history of abuse; adolescents involved with an abusive partner report increased levels of depressed mood, substance abuse, antisocial behavior, and in females, suicidal behavior; and

WHEREAS, Researchers report that children who witness domestic violence are at a greater risk of developing psychiatric disorders, developmental problems, school failure, violence against others and low

self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, The proliferation of domestic violence in communities across New York State can be combated in part by raising society's awareness of and sensitivity to this prevalent of and far-reaching issue; and

WHEREAS, Walk with Me Week is one way to mobilize future generations to get involved and create a movement against domestic violence while simultaneously letting people know that they are not alone and have a right to be safe; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October 24-28, 2011, as Walk with Me Week 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.