

## 2011-J4473

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 7-13, 2012, as Fibromyalgia Awareness Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, An estimated 10 million people in the United States, six to eight percent of the population, and millions of people worldwide have been diagnosed with Fibromyalgia, an illness for which there is no known cause or cure; and

WHEREAS, A chronic syndrome that is increasing at alarming rates, Fibromyalgia causes debilitating fatigue and chronic pain in women, men, and children of all ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, Patients with Fibromyalgia often have to learn to live with widespread pain throughout their bodies, extreme fatigue, sleep disorders, stiffness and weakness, migraine headaches, numbness and tingling, and impairment of memory and concentration; and

WHEREAS, It often takes an average of five years to receive a diagnosis of Fibromyalgia, and medical professionals frequently are inadequately educated regarding the diagnosis and treatment of Fibromyalgia; and

WHEREAS, Increased awareness and expanded knowledge of the realities of life with Fibromyalgia will allow the community at large to better support people who struggle with the challenges of this chronic pain disorder; and

WHEREAS, A nonprofit charitable organization, the National Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Association, has joined together with other groups around the country, including the International Institute For Human Empowerment based in New York State, to promote Fibromyalgia awareness and support, including improved education, diagnosis, research and treatment; and

WHEREAS, The International Institute For Human Empowerment is the sponsor of various Fibromyalgia awareness events, as well as, the Select Empowerment Seminar report: "Fibromyalgia: Awareness, Advocacy, and Action," encouraging the medical community, patients, employers, government health and human rights agencies, educators, and caregivers, to work together to support and improve the lives of Fibromyalgia patients; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the National Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Association is urging Fibromyalgia patients and their supporters, healthcare providers and the general public to demonstrate their caring by sharing the road patients walk, the facts about Fibromyalgia, and ever-growing awareness about the etiology of this syndrome and potential treatments; and

WHEREAS, The Neurosciences Department of Albany Medical Center in Albany, New York, conducts medical research, and provides continuing medical education for physicians and other healthcare providers, and patients and caregivers, in Fibromyalgia; and

WHEREAS, Certain individuals living in the Capital District of New York State have devoted much of their lives to educating patients, caregivers, and healthcare providers about living well with Fibromyalgia: Jonathan Cooper, M.D., Agnes Welch, and Betsy Shearer, through sponsoring a Fibromyalgia Support Group for approximately 30 years that meets at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, The community's focus on Fibromyalgia and its impact on patients' lives will help guarantee hope for a better future for people with Fibromyalgia; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the needs of those chronically ill people who suffer from Fibromyalgia, and urges all of our

citizens to support the search for a cure and assist those individuals and families who deal with this devastating syndrome on a daily basis; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to Proclaim May 7-13, 2012, as Fibromyalgia Awareness Week in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; the International Institute For Human Empowerment; The Neurosciences Department of Albany Medical Center; the Fibromyalgia Support Group Leadership; and the National Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Association.