

2015-J144

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 6, 2015, as Lymphedema Awareness Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in recognizing days of awareness of important medical conditions, in the hopes of increasing education, treatment and cure; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 6, 2015, as Lymphedema Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with National Lymphedema Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, Lymphedema is a condition that occurs when the body's natural Lymphatic drainage system malfunctions and the Lymphatic fluid within a given area, such as the arm, leg, torso, head and neck, exceeds the amount that can be removed by this Lymphatic system; this results in extreme swelling that impairs mobility, function, and can cause pain and significantly impair quality of life for the affected person; and

WHEREAS, The total number of persons living with or at risk for Lymphedema is difficult to establish because Lymphedema is under-reported and often misdiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, Under-diagnosing and under-treating of Lymphedema patients costs healthcare providers and healthcare insurers, including Medicare, untold millions of dollars every year because if left untreated, the potential for infection is greatly increased and may come on in the course of a few hours and requires immediate treatment on an emergency basis; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Health and Human Services estimates that Lymphedema affects some 100 million people worldwide and over three million people here in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Lymphedema can develop after cancer treatment, radiation therapy, major surgery, severe burns or other traumatic injuries; and
WHEREAS, The Center for Disease Control estimates that 20%-40% of all cancer survivors will develop Lymphedema at some point in their lifetime, with an even higher percentage among the elderly; and
WHEREAS, The National Cancer Institute estimates that 61% of cancer survivors in 2005 alone were over 65 years of age; further, as many as 1.25 million Medicare beneficiaries who are cancer survivors required treatment for their Lymphedema in 2005; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the financial, physical and psychological impact that Lymphedema has on those afflicted, it is incumbent upon the citizens of the State of New York to support the courageous individuals living and coping with this debilitating condition as well as their caregivers, both professional and lay persons; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the tireless advocates and healthcare providers who spend so much of their time and resources battling this painful and destructive condition that affects so many; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 6, 2015, as Lymphedema Awareness Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.