

2015-J805

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2015 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month

WHEREAS, There is no test of society more important than its treatment of children, its most precious resource; every child merits the respect, encouragement, and concern of all; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2015 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, National Child Abuse Prevention Month is observed every April to alert Americans to the ongoing crisis of child abuse; to teach communities to recognize the signs and symptoms of this far too common problem; and to encourage the prevention of child abuse and neglect through education and resources; and

WHEREAS, Child Abuse Prevention Month also seeks to remember all the children who have lost their lives or have been seriously affected by familial violence; and

WHEREAS, Children are suffering from a hidden epidemic of child abuse; it is a widespread war against our children that we have the power to stop; every year, more than three million reports of child abuse are made in the United States involving more than six million children; and

WHEREAS, Child abuse and neglect is a complex and significant problem; it crosses all cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic lines, exists within all religions, and occurs at all levels of education in our State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, The United States has one of the worst records among indus-

trialized nations, losing on average between four and seven children every day to child abuse and neglect; a report of child abuse is made every ten seconds in America, and approximately 70% of children who die from abuse are under the age of four; and

WHEREAS, Society pays a high price for child abuse and neglect; the estimated annual cost in the United States for 2008 was \$124 billion; 14% of all men in prison and 36% of women in prison were abused as children, about twice the frequency seen in the general population; and WHEREAS, Preventing child abuse and neglect requires a partnership of government and local agencies; the goal is to identify and promote early recognition of abuse or neglect and to develop effective prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is committed to ensuring the safety and quality of life of the children of this State and Nation, and to protect future generations of citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to declare April 2015 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month; 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.