

2015-J1145

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 2015, as Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, in conjunction with the observance of National Caregiver Month, and November 18, 2015, as Memory Screening Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a slow, progressive disorder of the brain that results in loss of memory and other cognitive function and, eventually death; and

WHEREAS, Today, more than five million Americans have Alzheimer's disease; including approximately 200,000 individuals younger than the age of 65 who have younger-onset Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, Women are more likely to be diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease; more than two-thirds of all those suffering from this devastating disease are women; and

WHEREAS, In New York alone, it is estimated that more than 320,000 aged 65 and older are currently affected by Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, The stigma associated with Alzheimer's disease results in a delay of diagnosis, in some cases up to six years; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, the direct costs to American society of caring for those with Alzheimer's disease will total an estimated \$214 billion, including \$150 billion in costs to Medicare and Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease takes an enormous toll on family members, with an estimated one in four acting as caregivers for each individual with the disease; and

WHEREAS, Caregivers for individuals with Alzheimer's disease suffer more stress, depression and health problems than caregivers of people with other illnesses; and

WHEREAS, Recent advancements in scientific research have demonstrated the benefits of early medical treatment for individuals with Alzheimer's

disease, as well as the benefits of early access to counseling and other support services for their caregivers; and

WHEREAS, With early diagnosis, individuals can avoid or correct contributing medical problems, commence available therapy, organize current and future care and enhance self-determination, and caregivers can identify and embrace community support services; and

WHEREAS, National Memory Screening Day was established by the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) as a collaborative effort with local organizations and health care professionals across the country to promote awareness, early detection, and early diagnosis of memory impairment, so that individuals can obtain proper medical treatment, social services and other resources related to their condition; and

WHEREAS, National Memory Screening Day is held by AFA each November in recognition of National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and on this day, healthcare professionals administer free, confidential, face-to-face memory screenings at thousands of sites throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Memory screening is not used to diagnose any illness but is used as an indicator to determine whether a person might benefit from further examination by a qualified healthcare provider; and

WHEREAS, Memory screenings are a safe and cost-effective intervention to direct at-risk individuals to appropriate clinical resources, thus reducing the costs of long-term care or hospitalization resulting from undiagnosed complications; and

WHEREAS, Screenings also greatly benefit those with normal scores, by checking their memory, allaying fears and promoting chronic disease prevention and successful aging; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 2015, as Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, in conjunction with the observance of National Caregiver Month, and November 18, 2015, as Memory Screening

Day 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, and the Alzheimer's Foundation of America.