

2015-K139

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to declare May 2015 as Hepatitis C Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is a known public health threat and can lead to more serious health complications if left untreated; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis C has been a disease that has little or no public awareness due to its nature as being largely asymptomatic; as many as half of those infected with Hepatitis C are unaware of their status; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis C currently infects between three and five million Americans, including an estimated 175,000 New Yorkers, and there are about 17,000 new cases and over 16,000 Hepatitis C related deaths each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The total healthcare related costs of Hepatitis C in the United States as of 2011 is approximately \$6.5 billion and is expected to rise to over \$9 billion in 2024; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is largely non reported and the public is uninformed about the virus; and

WHEREAS, Persons born between 1945 and 1965 are disproportionately affected by the disease with an estimated 1 out of 33 baby boomers infected with Hepatitis C; and

WHEREAS, New York State has become a leader in promoting testing and awareness of the disease especially among at risk populations; and

WHEREAS, New York State became the first State in the Nation to pass a Hepatitis C testing law that mandates that all persons born between 1945 and 1965 are offered a one-time test; and

WHEREAS, In the absence of a vaccine for Hepatitis C, emphasis must be placed on other means of disease prevention, including education of health care workers, emergency services workers, veterans and the general public; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis C has been characterized by the World Health Organization as a disease of primary concern to humanity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to declare May 2015 as "Hepatitis C Awareness Month" in the State of New York, and to urge the citizens of this great Empire State to learn about the causes, symptoms, diagnoses and treatments for Hepatitis C; 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.