

2015-J1459

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 24, 2015, as World Meningitis Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to highlight days of awareness which draw attention to important and beneficial causes, and it is the solemn duty of this Legislative Body to promote the health and welfare of all New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, This year, World Meningitis Day falls on April 24, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Meningococcal meningitis is a bacterial form of meningitis, a serious and deadly infection of the thin lining that surrounds the brain and spinal cord which can cause severe brain damage and, according to the World Health Organization, is fatal in about fifty percent of cases if left untreated; and

WHEREAS, Meningitis often starts with relatively innocuous symptoms such as a fever and a headache, but can escalate so swiftly that some victims are found dead in bed, without even having the chance to visit a doctor; and

WHEREAS, Although meningitis outbreaks in the United States are rare, a serious outbreak occurred in New York City in 2012 which took the lives of seven people and caused significant concern, especially among the LGBT community; and

WHEREAS, The spread of the 2012 outbreak was contained because city health officials conducted an unprecedented outreach, education, and immunization campaign and encouraged gay men to receive preventative vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, This campaign demonstrated the effectiveness of vaccinations at keeping deadly diseases at bay, and is a reminder of human vulnerability to these diseases without the proper precautions; and

WHEREAS, The 2012 outbreak led to increased public consciousness of the dangers of meningitis and spurred the passage of laws such as Chapter 274 of the Laws of 2013, which allows licensed pharmacists and certified nurse practitioners to administer immunizations against meningitis; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that global vaccination of children born between 1994 and 2013 will prevent 322 million illnesses, help avoid 732,000 deaths, and save nearly \$1.4 trillion in total societal costs; and

WHEREAS, The United States is incredibly fortunate to have a health care system capable of maintaining herd immunity by administering near-universal immunizations against meningitis, a disease which causes so much sickness, heartbreak, and misery in less developed parts of the world and has made several particularly worrisome incursions into the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 24, 2015 as World Meningitis Day in the State of New York; 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.