

2015-K379

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 19-26, 2015, as Malnutrition Awareness Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official weeks that are set aside to increase awareness of serious conditions that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 19-26, 2015, as Malnutrition Awareness Week in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Malnutrition is responsible for half of all deaths in children under the age of five, which translates into three million deaths per annum; and

WHEREAS, Only three percent of the 20 million children suffering from severe acute malnutrition each year receive the treatment they need; the World Bank estimates that US \$12 billion a year is needed to scale up effective nutrition programs that meet current needs; and

WHEREAS, Malnutrition weakens resistance and increases the risk of dying from pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, measles or AIDS; these five diseases are responsible for half of the 9.8 million deaths in children under five every year; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 20 million children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), and another 175 million are undernourished; without access to nutrient rich diets, nine children will die every minute of causes related to malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, one in four children under age five worldwide had stunted growth due to malnutrition, and worldwide, 99 million children under age 5 were underweight due to malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, 49.1 million Americans lived in food insecure households, including 33.3 million adults and 15.8 million children; 14 percent of households (17.5 million households) were food insecure, and six percent of households (6.8 million households) experienced very low food security; and

WHEREAS, Households with children reported food insecurity at a significantly higher rate than those without children, 20 percent compared to 12 percent; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, households that had higher rates of food insecurity than the national average included households with children (20%), especially households with children headed by single women (34%) or single men (23%), Black non-Hispanic households (26%) and Hispanic households (24%); and

WHEREAS, In 2011, 4.8 million seniors (over age 60), or eight percent of all seniors were food insecure; food insecurity exists in every county in America, ranging from a low of four percent in Slope County, North Dakota, to a high of 33 percent in Humphreys County, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the importance of Malnutrition Awareness Week in promoting public and media attention to the seriousness of malnutrition, and for working to improve education about its causes and its treatments, as well as how to help those who are struggling with this debilitating condition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 19-26, 2015, as Malnutrition Awareness Week 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.