

2015-J2574

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to declare July 19-25, 2015, as Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM) Awareness Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of the State of New York to recognize official weeks that are set aside to increase public awareness about serious illnesses that affect the lives of citizens throughout New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body hereby memorializes Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to declare the week of July 19-25, 2015, as Arteriovenous Malformation Awareness Week in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Arteriovenous Malformation, more commonly known as AVM, is defined as an abnormal connection between arteries and veins, which bypass the capillary system; AVM is a rare condition that affects approximately 300,000 Americans; and

WHEREAS, Though many AVM conditions are asymptomatic, they often cause intense pain or bleeding in addition to other serious medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, This vascular anomaly can cause abnormal sensations, such as numbness, tingling or spontaneous pain, as well as difficulties with movement or coordination, including muscle weakness and even paralysis; and

WHEREAS, A team of researchers has initiated research on AVM, with the goal of identifying a drug therapy to cure the disease; the objectives of this research include determining the mechanism of progression of AVM in humans, developing tools for testing potential pharmacotherapy, and developing drug treatments for humans living with AVM; and

WHEREAS, Kelleigh's Cause, a not-for-profit organization, has been instrumental in raising awareness about AVM and in raising funds to support the research and medical treatment of AVM; and

WHEREAS, Kelleigh's Cause was founded in Michigan by Kelleigh Gustafson, a young woman who has been living with Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM) since she was diagnosed with massive malformations affecting the right side of her head, neck and chest at four years old; Kelleigh, who

now lives in Upstate New York and attends college, continues to raise awareness through various speaking engagements and community events; and WHEREAS, There exists a great need for public awareness surrounding this rare condition and increased attention to the opportunities for advancement in AVM research and treatment; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to hereby memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to declare July 19-25, 2015, AVM Awareness Week 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 Ms. Kelleigh Gustafson.