

## 2015-K732

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2015 as Urological Health Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in recognizing serious diseases by proclaiming official months to increase awareness of such concerns, which affect thousands of New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2015 as Urological Health Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Urologists are committed to educating people in the United States, including all health care providers, about prostate cancer and early detection strategies, which is crucial to saving the lives of men and preserving and protecting families; and

WHEREAS, Prostate cancer is a substantial health problem in the State of New York and throughout the United States; it is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among American men; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, it is estimated there will be 220,000 new prostate cancer cases and nearly 30,000 deaths from prostate cancer; and

WHEREAS, One out of every seven men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime; prostate cancer can remain symptomless for years; there is often no way to detect prostate cancer in its early stages except through specific tests done by trained professionals making screening crucial to save men's lives; and

WHEREAS, Despite decades of education and awareness efforts, prostate cancer incidence and mortality rates for African-American men remain nearly double that of Caucasian men; and

WHEREAS, Screening by both a digital rectal examination (DRE) and a prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test can diagnose the disease in

its early stages, increasing the chances of surviving more than five years to nearly 100 percent; and

WHEREAS, Between 1990 and 2012, utilization of the PSA blood test and the DRE resulted in a 45% decrease in prostate cancer mortality in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The 2012 decision by the United States Preventative Services Task Force to eliminate the recommendation of the prostate specific antigen (PSA) and digital rectal examination (DRE) to screen men for prostate cancer resulted in confusion regarding proper screening intervals and methods; and

WHEREAS, The proportion of men diagnosed with intermediate or high-risk cancer, based on blood prostate-specific antigen (PSA) level, increased by nearly 6% from 2011 to 2013, according to an analysis of men treated for the disease since 2005; and

WHEREAS, It is critical that the New York State Department of Health strongly advise men on the need to be screened for prostate cancer with the PSA and DRE; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2015 as Urological Health Awareness Month 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.