

## 2015-K809

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim August 2015, as Child Support Awareness Month in the State of New York

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

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim August 2015, as Child Support Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Recent statistics estimate that there are 23.4 million children up to age 20 who live with a custodial parent while their other parent lives elsewhere; less than one half of custodial parents receive child support, and only 43.4% receive their full child support payment each month; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of New York need to recognize the critical role child support plays in the lives of many children; many times child support payments are the only thing that prevents children from living in severe poverty; and

WHEREAS, Child support is often thought of as a second income, and sometimes the largest source of income for the families who receive it; and

WHEREAS, Family support workers work to ensure that each family has a child support order in place as well as assist the non-custodial parent in being able to fulfill the court's child support judgment; and

WHEREAS, Non-custodial parents face barriers which may prevent them from being able to pay their child support such as lack of employment or education, past criminal convictions, substance abuse or mental health

issues; assisting a non-custodial parent to address the issues with which they are faced can put them on a path of independence and give them the ability to contribute financially in one form to their children; and

WHEREAS, Studies show that parents who make their child support payments are more likely to stay involved in their children's life, helping to ensure they lead happy, successful lives; and

WHEREAS, Child Support Awareness Month is an opportunity to ensure that necessary and appropriate programs are in place to assist in this vital area of need for children and their families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to declare August 2015, as Child Support Awareness Month in the State of New York, and to urge the residents of this great Empire State to learn about this critical issue; 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.