



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Charles J. Fuschillo Jr.

Senate Passes Fuschillo Resolution Proclaiming May as “Skin Cancer Awareness Month” in New York State

CHARLES J. FUSCHILLO JR. May 10, 2011

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Senator Fuschillo Reminds Residents to Be Safe & Get Screened

The New York State Senate today passed a legislative resolution sponsored by Senator Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr. (R-Merrick) proclaiming May as “Skin Cancer Awareness Month” in New York State.

“I’m pleased that the State Senate passed this resolution to raise awareness about skin cancer, which is the most common form of cancer according to the American Cancer Society. With summer right around the corner, it’s important to raise awareness about the need to practice good sun safety. Taking a few simple precautions, as well as getting regularly screened by a dermatologist, will go a long way towards protecting yourself from skin cancer,” said Senator Fuschillo.

Senator Fuschillo reminded residents to practice the following sun safety tips, which are offered by the American Cancer Society:

- * Use sunscreen. The American Academy of Dermatology recommends products with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30. Sunscreen should be applied as instructed on the product label. Check the product’s label to make sure it has not expired.

- * Cover up in the sun. Wear as much clothing as possible to cover up exposed skin.

- * Wear a hat. A hat with at least a 2 to 3 inch brim all around is ideal because it protects areas such as the ears, eyes, forehead, nose, and scalp that are often exposed to intense sun.

- * Wear sunglasses that block UV rays. Check the label to make sure they block UVA & UVB radiation. UV absorption up to 400 nm" or "Meets ANSI UV Requirements" mean the glasses block at least 99% of UV rays. Those labeled "cosmetic" block about 70% of the UV rays. If there is no label, don't assume the sunglasses provide any protection.

- * Avoid being outdoors too long between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm, when the sun’s UV rays are the strongest.

- * Avoid using tanning beds and tanning lamps. These devices emit UVA rays, and often UVB rays, both of which can cause long-term skin damage and contribute to skin cancer.

Most skin doctors and health organizations recommend not using tanning beds and sun lamps.

In addition, the American Cancer Society recommends that individuals get screened regularly by a dermatologist and perform self-skin exams at least once a month. Senator Fuschillo will be sponsoring a free skin cancer screening program in July. Please call Senator Fuschillo's office at 516-882-0630 for additional information.

Senator Fuschillo is also sponsoring legislation to help protect young people from skin cancer. Senator Fuschillo's legislation would prohibit anyone under the age of 18 from using indoor tanning beds. Individuals under the age of 30 who use tanning beds increase their risk of melanoma by 75%, according to the American Cancer Society.

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Text of the legislative resolution:

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May of 2011, as Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States, affecting those across every racial and ethnic population in both New York State and the rest of the country, developing more new cases each year than breast, prostate, lung and colon cancers combined; and

WHEREAS, In the United States in 2010, an estimated 74,010 people were diagnosed with skin cancer; and, an estimated 11,790 people died from skin cancer; and

WHEREAS, Skin cancer is a disease which will affect one in five Americans during the course of their lifetime and has resulted in nearly 800,000 Americans living with a history of melanoma and 13 million who are living with a history of nonmelanoma skin cancer; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 39,000 new cases of melanoma occur in men each year in the United States, and 29,000 in women, resulting in 5,700 and 3,000 deaths respectively; and

WHEREAS, The survival rate for patients whose melanoma is detected early, before the tumor has penetrated the skin, is about 99%, the survival rate falls to 15% for those with advanced disease; and

WHEREAS, Common causes of skin cancer include frequent unprotected outings in the harmful ultraviolet rays caused by both the sun and tanning beds, with frequent tanners receiving as much as 12 times the annual UVA dose compared to the dose they would receive from sun exposure alone, and increasing their chances of developing melanoma by 74%, as well as genetic factors such as skin type and tolerance to sunburn; and

WHEREAS, Skin cancer is a highly curable disease when treated early, thus preventing progression towards the disease's latter stages should be of utmost concern; and

WHEREAS, Increased awareness and education among all stakeholders, including federal and state governments, patient groups, medical researchers, community leaders and organizers, the public and businesses, is critical to promote the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of skin cancer; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2011, as Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention 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.