

2015-J3174

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2016 as Sarcoidosis 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 citizens 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 April 2016 as Sarcoidosis Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Sarcoidosis is an inflammatory disease which can affect almost any organ in the body; it causes heightened immunity, which means that a person's immune system, which normally protects the body from infection and disease, overreacts, resulting in damage to the body's own tissues; and

WHEREAS, The classic feature of Sarcoidosis is the formation of granulomas, microscopic clumps of inflammatory cells which group together, and look like granules; when too many of these clumps form in an organ they can interfere with how that organ functions; and

WHEREAS, In people in the United States, Sarcoidosis most commonly targets the lungs and lymph nodes, but the disease can and usually does affect other organs, including, but not limited to, the skin, eyes, liver, salivary glands, sinuses, kidneys, heart, the muscles and bones, and the brain, as well as the nervous system; and

WHEREAS, Sarcoidosis can be tricky to diagnose and is often confused with other diseases; many people with Sarcoidosis think they have the flu or a respiratory infection before they are properly diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, Common symptoms of Sarcoidosis include: cough, shortness of

breath, chest pain, night sweats, fatigue, and wheezing or abnormal breathing, as well as feeling congested; and

WHEREAS, Sarcoidosis also can cause the following: skin rashes or raised bumps on the skin, joint pain or stiffness, eye irritation, dryness of the eyes and sometimes blurry vision, fast heart rate or lightheadedness, kidney stones, increased levels of calcium in the bloodstream, and abnormal liver function; and

WHEREAS, The exact cause of Sarcoidosis is unknown; while no specific gene mutation has been shown to cause Sarcoidosis, it sometimes runs in families, and there may be a genetic tendency to develop Sarcoidosis; and

WHEREAS, Some research suggests that an infection or exposure to something in the environment can trigger the immune system to overreact; unfortunately, many of our heroic First Responders to the 9/11 tragedy in New York City, have Sarcoidosis due to breathing in the heavy dust; and

WHEREAS, It has been found that people of African and Scandinavian descent are slightly more likely to develop Sarcoidosis than Caucasians; women are more likely to develop the disease than men; some exposures to dusty or moldy environments have increased risk of developing Sarcoidosis, and people between 20 to 40 years of age are more likely to develop Sarcoidosis than others; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Legislature continues its commitment to educate the public in the importance of early detection and prevention, to support institutions that further research and knowledge in the treatment of Sarcoidosis, and to promote an environment in which a healthy lifestyle will result in healthy minds and bodies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body and Governor Andrew M. Cuomo proclaim April 2016 as Sarcoidosis 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.