

2015-J3507

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 2016, as Children's Dental Health Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Children's Dental Health Month

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 across the Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 2016, as Children's Dental Health Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Children's Dental Health Month; and

WHEREAS, This year's National Children's Dental Health Month campaign slogan is "Sugar Wars"; and

WHEREAS, National Children's Dental Health Month mission is to raise awareness about the importance of oral health; this month-long national health observance brings together thousands of dedicated dental professionals, healthcare providers, and educators to promote the benefits of good oral health to children, their caregivers, teachers and many others; and

WHEREAS, Reports show that American students miss 51 million hours of school every year because of oral health problems; students who are absent miss critical instruction time, especially in early grades where reading skills are an important focus and the building blocks of future learning; and

WHEREAS, Students who have experienced recent oral health pain are four times more likely to have lower grade point averages than their

counterparts who have not; and

WHEREAS, Despite the fact that it is almost entirely preventable, tooth decay is the most common chronic disease in children; there are safe and effective preventive measures that can protect teeth; good oral hygiene practices such as thorough brushing with a fluoride toothpaste can help keep children from getting cavities; and

WHEREAS, In addition, dental sealants and community water fluoridation are two other strategies that can help prevent tooth decay; and

WHEREAS, According to the American Dental Association, along with the ADA Foundation, it is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious health issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and national levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 2016, as Children's Dental Health Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Children's Dental Health Month; 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.