

2015-J3535

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 14, 2016, as Donor Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Donor Day

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days 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 14, 2016, as Donor Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Donor Day; and

WHEREAS, National Donor Day is a time to focus on all types of donation, including organ, eye, tissue, blood, platelets and marrow, by participating in blood/marrow drives or donor registration events; and

WHEREAS, It is also a day to recognize our loved ones who have given the gift of donation, have received a donation, are currently waiting, or did not receive an organ in time; and

WHEREAS, National Donor Day is an observance originally designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to raise awareness for organ, eye, tissue, marrow, platelet, and blood donation; and

WHEREAS, There is a tremendous need for organ donations in New York State; and

WHEREAS, More than 10,000 New Yorkers are on waiting lists as the need for organ, tissue and blood donations far exceed the supply; and

WHEREAS, Every 13 hours, someone dies waiting for an organ transplant in our State; more than 8,000 New Yorkers await kidneys; over 1,300 need livers; more than 300 need hearts; more than 100 people need pancreases;

and over 50 need lungs; and

WHEREAS, One person who donates their organs (heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas and intestines) can save up to eight lives; and

WHEREAS, Bone marrow transplantation has been a life-saving therapy for more than 30 years and for many patients, offers the only cure; and

WHEREAS, About 70 percent of patients in need of a bone marrow transplant do not have a matching donor in their family, and depend on the kindness of strangers who are willing to donate matching bone marrow; and

WHEREAS, A tissue donor (corneas, bone, skin, heart valves, tendons, veins, etc.) can improve 12 or more lives by restoring eyesight, helping fight infections in burn patients and preventing the loss of mobility and disability; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of thousands of New York State residents donate blood and platelets each year with thousands more serving as volunteer blood drive coordinators at thousands of blood drives around the states; and

WHEREAS, Each donation of blood can help save three lives following component (red cell, platelet, plasma) separation; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness and educational initiatives offered regarding the decision to donate one's organs, eyes, tissues, marrow, platelet, and/or blood 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 14, 2016, as Donor Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Donor Day; 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.