

2015-K1024

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION calling upon the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop a remedial action plan addressing the high incidence of asthma in children living in the Borough of the Bronx in the City of New York

WHEREAS, Asthma is an incurable chronic lung disease that inflames and narrows the airways; asthma affects three hundred million people in the world with more than twenty-four million of them in the United States, nearly nine million of whom are children; in New York State alone more than one million adults have asthma; the complications of asthma can be severe and the disease kills nearly 255,000 people worldwide every year; and

WHEREAS, Asthma affects primarily children; those young people who have a low birth weight, are black, and have been raised in a low income environment, have the highest risk for developing the disease; among children, boys are more likely to develop asthma than girls; however, among adults, more women have the disease than men; and

WHEREAS, The exact cause of asthma is unknown, but researchers believe it is a combination of factors including family genes, obesity, tobacco smoke, allergies, and stress; common asthma triggers include dust, exercise, and aspirin along with other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; and

WHEREAS, The best way to diagnose asthma is a lung function test along with asking about the patient's family history of asthma and a physical examination; the information gathered from this series of examinations helps to determine the severity level of the patient; the patient's severity level determines what treatment they will be given; and

WHEREAS, Common symptoms of asthma include wheezing, chest tightness, shortness of breath, and coughing; coughing is often worse at night or

early in the morning, making it hard to sleep; emergency symptoms include the lips turning a bluish color, increase in pulse rate, and a decrease in alertness such as confusion; and

WHEREAS, Bronx County has one of the highest rates of asthma in the United States and the death rate in Bronx County is nearly three times higher than the national average; in some neighborhoods in Bronx County it is estimated that twenty percent of children are diagnosed with asthma; New York State has the highest pediatric asthma hospitalization rate in the Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to call upon the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop a remedial action plan to address the high incidence of asthma in the Borough of the Bronx in the City of New York; this remedial action plan shall provide detailed steps that can be taken to reduce the incidence in children in Bronx County; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.