

2015-K1196

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to recognize April 15, 2016, as a Day of Silence in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The Day of Silence is a day on which students take a vow to remain silent for a full day in order to bring attention to the harassment and discrimination faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in schools, including students, teachers, and other school staff; and

WHEREAS, The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network, in partnership with the United States Student Association, has designated April 15, 2016, as the Day of Silence; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of thousands of students at more than 8,000 K-12 schools, colleges and universities participated in Day of Silence events in 2011; and

WHEREAS, More than 80 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students have been verbally harassed by their peers because of their sexual orientation and gender identity; and

WHEREAS, More than 40 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students have been physically assaulted by their peers because of their sexual orientation and gender identity; and

WHEREAS, More than 80 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students report that faculty and staff rarely or never intervene when harassment against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals occurs; and

WHEREAS, More than 30 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students report missing at least one entire school day in the last month because they feel unsafe; and

WHEREAS, Unchecked harassment and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression can hinder student

achievement and have a negative impact on student academic performance;
and

WHEREAS, Every child, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, should be guaranteed an education free from discrimination and harassment; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body supports the goals and ideals of the Day of Silence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 15, 2016, a Day of Silence 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.