

2015-J5955

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September of 2016, as Chiari Malformation 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 September of 2016, as Chiari Malformation Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, On September 17, 2016, the annual Conquer Chiari Walk/Run Across America will be held in Rome, New York; and

WHEREAS, Chiari Malformation is a serious neurological disorder affecting well over 300,000 people in the United States; it was first identified by Austrian pathologist Professor Hans Chiari in the 1890's, and is categorized in order of severity by CM types 0, 1, 1.5, 2, 3 and 4; and

WHEREAS, Chiari Malformations are defects in the cerebellum, the part of the brain that controls balance; these defects create pressure on the cerebellum and brain stem, and may block the normal flow of cerebral spinal fluid to and from the brain; and

WHEREAS, The cause of Chiari I Malformation is unknown, but scientists believe it is either a congenital condition caused by exposure to harmful substances during fetal development or that it can be a genetic condition, as it may appear in more than one family member; and

WHEREAS, Chiari Malformation symptoms usually appear during adolescence or early adulthood and can include severe head and neck pain, vertigo, muscle weakness, balance problems, blurred vision or double

vision, difficulty swallowing and sleep apnea; and

WHEREAS, The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke of the National Institutes of Health is conducting research to find alternative surgical options and identify the cause of the malformations to create improved treatment and prevention plans; and

WHEREAS, Currently, there is a great need for physician education with regard to the treatment and ongoing care of persons afflicted with Chiari Malformation; more work is necessary to update and change physician education for the safety and betterment in the quality of life for the hundreds of thousands of suffering Chiari patients; and

WHEREAS, Chiari Malformation Awareness Month in the State of New York provides an opportunity to focus on this significant and complex disease, to provide information on and raise public awareness of the cause, effects and treatments, and to underscore important education and research efforts surrounding Chiari Malformation; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September of 2016, as Chiari Malformation 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.