

2015-K1437

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October 6, 2016, as Organ Donor Enrollment Day in the State of New York

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

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 October 6, 2016, as Organ Donor Enrollment Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, LiveOnNY is a nonprofit, federally designated organ procurement organization (OPO) dedicated to the recovery of organs and tissue for transplant in the greater New York metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1978, LiveOnNY is the second largest OPO in the United States, serving a culturally and ethnically diverse population of 13 million; and

WHEREAS, The objective of this vital organization is to increase the number of organ, eye and tissue donors by procuring as many New Yorkers as possible to enroll in the New York State Donate Life Registry; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore its mission is to save lives, provide comfort and strengthen legacies through organ, eye and tissue donation, and its vision is a world in which the power of organ, eye and tissue donation is fully realized; and

WHEREAS, By working together with the citizens of not only the five boroughs but the entire State of New York, the efforts of LiveOnNY is helping to make a difference; for every New Yorker who enrolls in the registry, up to eight lives can be saved, and another 50 lives can be saved or improved through tissue donation; and

WHEREAS, New York State ranks 50th out of 50 in the nation in percent of residents who are registered organ donors; and

WHEREAS, Only 26% of New Yorkers are registered organ donors, however, 83% of this population support organ donation; and

WHEREAS, Under the skilled leadership of President/CEO Helen Irving and Medical Director Amy L. Friedman, MD, LiveOnNY has so effectively carried out its mission by demonstrating the sanctity of life; and

WHEREAS, The first Donor Enrollment Day held in 2015, generated over 3,000 new enrollments in LiveOnNY donor service area which covers the five boroughs in New York City, all of Long Island and five counties in the lower Hudson Valley, including Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Dutchess and Putnam Counties; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness and educational initiatives offered regarding the decision to donate one's organs, eyes and/or tissues, 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 October 6, 2016, as Organ Donor Enrollment Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; and Helen Irving, President and CEO, and Amy L. Friedman, MD, Medical Director, LiveOnNY.