

2015-K1520

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October 15, 2016, as Pulmonary Fibrosis Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Pulmonary Fibrosis is a disease of the lungs which occurs when lung tissue becomes damaged and scarred; when the tissue around the air sacs in the lungs thickens, it is more difficult for oxygen to pass into the bloodstream causing those with pulmonary fibrosis to become progressively more short of breath; and

WHEREAS, Scarring associated with pulmonary fibrosis can be caused by many factors making it difficult for doctors to pinpoint the specific cause of the problem, and in most cases the cause is never found; when a definite cause cannot be found, the condition is termed Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF); and

WHEREAS, A lack of clinical understanding of IPF often leads to misdiagnosis, and it is estimated more than 50 percent of IPF patients may be initially misdiagnosed delaying treatment and the ability to perform adequate clinical trials; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated approximately 130,000 Americans have IPF although there are published estimates suggesting the number may be as high as 200,000; and

WHEREAS, IPF is found in equal proportions in urban and rural environments but affects more men than women; the median age at time of diagnosis is approximately 63 years-old; and

WHEREAS, Researchers have several theories on the causes of IPF including viruses; exposure to tobacco smoke; airborne toxins in the workplace such as silica dust, asbestos fibers, grain dust, bird and animal droppings; certain lung diseases; and even some types of medical treatments; since IPF often runs in families, heredity is also believed

to play a role; and

WHEREAS, The lung scarring that occurs in pulmonary fibrosis cannot be reversed and no current treatment has proved effective in stopping the progression of the disease although some treatments may improve symptoms temporarily or slow the disease's progress; and

WHEREAS, Lung transplantation may be the option of last resort for patients with severe IPF; and

WHEREAS, Robert "Chip" Hamilton, a distinguished and profoundly loved civic leader in the Town of Peru, Clinton County, died on January 27, 2011, following a valiant battle with IPF including a right lung transplant performed in October of 2010; and

WHEREAS, Chip's family is sponsoring a half-marathon and a 10K in his honor to be held on October 15, 2016, to raise money for research to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of IPF; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative there be greater public awareness of this serious health condition, and more must be done to encourage research and activity at the State, local and national levels to support the patients as well as their families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, This this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October 15, 2016, as Pulmonary Fibrosis 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 to the family of Robert "Chip" Hamilton.