

2015-K1582

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October 1, 2016, as Food Allergy Awareness 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 health 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 1, 2016, as Food Allergy Awareness Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Food allergy is a disease in which the body's immune system mistakenly targets a harmless food protein (an allergen) as a threat; to fight this threat, the body releases histamine and other chemicals, causing symptoms that can range from skin rashes and stomach problems to life-threatening anaphylaxis; and

WHEREAS, Although a person can be allergic to any food, eight foods (milk, egg, peanut, tree nuts, wheat, soy, fish and shellfish) cause most food allergy reactions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Anyone, at any age, can develop a food allergy, but the impact on children is especially severe; there is no cure, and no standard treatment to prevent food allergy reactions; and

WHEREAS, Strict avoidance of problem foods is the only way to stay safe; and

WHEREAS, With the number of people who have food allergies increasing at a significant rate, this potentially fatal condition is a growing public health issue; and

WHEREAS, Food allergies affect up to 15 million Americans, including 1 in 13 children - roughly two in every classroom; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 40 percent of these children have already experienced a severe or life-threatening reaction; and

WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of children with food allergies in the United States increased 50 percent between 1997 and 2011; and

WHEREAS, Every three minutes, a food allergy reaction sends someone to the emergency room; and

WHEREAS, Caring for children with food allergies costs families nearly \$25 billion per year; and

WHEREAS, Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE) works on behalf of the 15 million Americans with food allergies, including all those at risk for life-threatening anaphylaxis; and

WHEREAS, Remaining true to its mission, FARE improves the quality of life and the health of individuals with food allergies, and provides them with hope through the promise of new treatments; and

WHEREAS, FARE's work is organized around three core tenets: life--support the ability of individuals with food allergies to live safe, productive lives with the respect of others through education and advocacy initiatives; health--enhance the healthcare access of individuals with food allergies to state-of-the-art diagnosis and treatment; and hope--encourage and fund research in both industry and academia that promises new therapies to improve the allergic condition; and

WHEREAS, A FARE Walk for Food Allergy has been organized to be held at The Crossings of Colonie, Loudonville, New York, on Saturday, October 1, 2016; in addition to this Albany Walk, several other Walks have been scheduled throughout the State of New York, in an effort to say FAREwell to Food Allergies, and to raise the critical funds and awareness neces-

sary to create a safer, more inclusive world for those who suffer with food allergies; and

WHEREAS, FARE Walk participants are committed to raising money in this inspirational event to fund FARE's research, advocacy and education

initiatives, and to show support to those with food allergies who walk among us in our lives; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater awareness and understanding of this serious health condition, 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 1, 2016, as Food Allergy Awareness 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 the organizers of FARE in Albany County.