

## 2015-K1583

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2016 as Alopecia 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 illnesses 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 September 2016 as Alopecia Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with National Alopecia Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, Alopecia Areata is an autoimmune skin disease resulting in the loss of hair on the scalp and elsewhere on the body; and

WHEREAS, With Alopecia Areata, the affected hair follicles are mistakenly attacked by a person's immune system, resulting in the loss of hair; and

WHEREAS, Alopecia Areata is a common but very challenging and capricious disease affecting approximately 2 percent of the American population, amounting to more than 4.7 million people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, With appropriate treatment, a large percentage of patients will have all of their hair back within one year, many will have it back sooner; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 5% of children with Alopecia Areata will go on to develop Alopecia Totalis, the loss of all the hair on the scalp, and some children will develop Alopecia Universalis, the complete loss of body hair; and

WHEREAS, There is no cure for Alopecia Areata and unfortunately since

there is little understanding of the disease there are no FDA approved drugs or treatments specifically designed to address Alopecia Areata; and

WHEREAS, Although not life-threatening, Alopecia Areata is most certainly life-altering, and its sudden onset, recurrent episodes, and unpredictable course have a serious effect on a person's life and functional status at work, school, and everyday life; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Alopecia Areata Foundation, it is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious health issue, 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 September 2016 as Alopecia Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with National Alopecia Awareness Month; 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 National Alopecia Areata Foundation.