

## 2021-J1504

Senate Resolution No. 1504

BY: Senator PARKER

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim  
April 2022, as Minority Health 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 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 Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2022, as Minority  
Health Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Office of Minority Health and Health  
Disparities Prevention (OMH-HDP) was established in 1992 by an amendment  
to the New York State Public Health Law to focus on the health concerns  
of minorities in New York State; and

WHEREAS, OMH-HDP is dedicated to improving the health of racial and  
ethnic minority populations through the development of health policies  
and programs that will help eliminate health disparities; and

WHEREAS, When comparing their health indicators against those of the  
rest of the United States population, poor health outcomes for African  
Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian

Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders are apparent; and

WHEREAS, These populations experience higher rates of illness and death from health conditions such as heart disease, stroke, specific cancers, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, asthma, hepatitis B, and overweight and obesity; and

WHEREAS, OMH-HDP's primary responsibility is to serve as a statewide resource for effecting the elimination of health disparities across all impacted populations by ensuring that everyone, regardless of ethnic or racial background or the community to which they belong, has access to the resources and services they need to be healthy; and

WHEREAS, OMH-HDP's programs address disease prevention, health promotion, risk reduction, healthier lifestyle choices, use of health care services, and barriers to health care; and

WHEREAS, OMH-HDP works in partnership with communities and organizations in the public and private sectors; these collaborations support a systems approach for eliminating health disparities, and coordinated responses through focused initiatives; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this health issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and national levels to improve health and healthcare outcomes for racial and ethnic minority communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2022, as Minority Health 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 Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.