

## 2021-K663

Assembly Resolution No. 663

BY: M. of A. Walsh

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim  
March 21, 2022, as Down Syndrome Awareness Day in  
the State of New York, in conjunction with the  
observance of World Down Syndrome Day

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize  
official days that are set aside to increase awareness of common genetic  
variations 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 Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 21, 2022, as Down  
Syndrome Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the  
observance of World Down Syndrome Day; and

WHEREAS, Down syndrome is a genetic condition affecting the body's  
development caused by the presence of three copies of chromosome 21 in  
the cell nucleus, and is also called Trisomy 21; there are an estimated  
seven million people with Down syndrome worldwide; and

WHEREAS, One in every 691 babies born in the United States are  
diagnosed with Down syndrome, making it the most common genetic disorder  
in the nation; approximately 400,000 Americans have Down syndrome and  
about 6,000 babies are born with Down syndrome in the United States each  
year; and

WHEREAS, While once extremely fatal, advances in medical technology are helping individuals with Down syndrome to live longer, healthier lives than ever before; with proper treatment, most particularly corrective heart surgeries, as many as 80% of adults with Down syndrome will reach age 60 or older; and

WHEREAS, Down Syndrome International will be celebrating the 17th Anniversary of World Down Syndrome Day on March 21, 2022; the date (3/21) was chosen to represent the scientific basis of the condition, Trisomy 21; and

WHEREAS, World Down Syndrome Day is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012; each year the voice of people with Down syndrome and those who live and work with them, grows louder, but there is still so much more to be done; and

WHEREAS, More and more New Yorkers are interacting with individuals with Down syndrome, increasing the need for widespread public education and acceptance; and

WHEREAS, People with Down syndrome in the State of New York possess a wide range of abilities, and are active participants in educational, occupational, social, and recreational circles of the community; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the inherent dignity, worth and valuable contributions of persons with Down syndrome as promoters of the well-being and diversity of our

communities, and the importance of their individual autonomy and independence, including the freedom to make their own choices; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 21, 2022, as Down Syndrome Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of World Down Syndrome Day; 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.