

2021-K749

Assembly Resolution No. 749

BY: M. of A. Bichotte Hermelyn

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
April 26, 2022, as Domestic Violence Awareness and
Prevention Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, As part of executing its mission, the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence seeks to create and support the social change necessary to prevent and confront all forms of domestic violence and to ensure the availability and accessibility of innovative and effective supports and services for all domestic violence survivors and their families; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive behavior and tactics used by someone against their intimate partner in an attempt to gain or maintain power and control; types of abuse can include physical, sexual, psychological, technological and economic abuse; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is not limited to specific groups based on race, socioeconomic status, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, religious affiliation or social location, but rather is perpetrated by abusers from all social groups; and

WHEREAS, On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States -- more than 10 million women and men over the course of a year; and

WHEREAS, Approximately one in three women and one in 10 men in the United States have experienced some form of domestic violence or interpersonal violence in their lifetime, yet only 43% of violent victimizations are reported to police; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence affects the LGBTQ+ community at a rate equal to or even greater than that of the cisgender, heterosexual community; and

WHEREAS, Survivors of domestic violence experience a host of health and mental health related consequences at far greater rates than their counterparts who have not been abused; and

WHEREAS, New York State consistently has the greatest demand for domestic violence support services in the country with 6,646 survivors requesting services on just one day in 2021, and 766 unfulfilled service requests because domestic violence service providers did not have the resources to provide such services; and

WHEREAS, According to the Mayor's office, the police department in New York City responded to more than 233,000 domestic incident reports in 2020, of which nearly 106,000 involved intimate partners; and

WHEREAS, The NYS Office of Children and Family Services reported that more than 48,000 survivors of domestic violence and their children received services from residential, non-residential, and transitional housing programs, and nearly 322,000 hotline calls were received across the State in 2019; and

WHEREAS, According to the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, there were 60 intimate partner homicides in New York State in 2020, with

domestic homicides accounting for 14 percent of all homicides reported in the State; and

WHEREAS, Intimate partner violence starts early and continues throughout the lifespan, as demonstrated by the fact that about 11 million women and five million men who reported experiencing contact sexual violence, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime said that they first experienced these forms of violence before the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, The economic burden of domestic violence in the United States is staggering, with costs to the U.S. economy estimated to be between \$5.8 billion and \$12.6 billion annually, with 21-60 percent of victims of intimate partner violence often losing their jobs due to reasons stemming from the abuse; and

WHEREAS, The cost of a single homicide is estimated at \$17.25 million when considering medical care, lost future earnings, related public programming and services, and property damage and other losses; and

WHEREAS, Researchers estimate that one in 15 children in the United States are exposed to intimate partner violence, for a total of five million children, and children who witness intimate partner violence growing up are three times more likely as their peers to engage in violent behavior; and

WHEREAS, Primary prevention strategies address the root causes and conditions that make domestic violence possible, and public health research has shown that implementing prevention activities at multiple levels on the social ecology scale - individual, relationship, community, and societal - will lead to lasting social change; and

WHEREAS, Primary prevention is focused on establishing gender equality, cultivating and promoting healthy relationship behaviors, and changing conditions in our communities and culture to stop domestic violence before it starts; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence advocates consistently provide comprehensive and compassionate life-saving services, advocacy, and support to survivors of domestic violence and their children, while leading essential primary prevention efforts within their communities to motivate the change needed to stop domestic violence from happening in the first place; and

WHEREAS, As part of executing its mission, the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence seeks to create and support the social change necessary to prevent and confront all forms of domestic violence, to ensure the availability and accessibility of innovative and effective supports and services for all domestic violence survivors and their families, and to dismantle oppression, end systemic racism and uproot the inequities that foster violence; and

WHEREAS, New York State needs to continually and significantly invest in services and supports for domestic violence survivors and

their families in order to meet the rising demand for assistance and to continue progress toward ending domestic violence once and for all; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 26th, 2022, as Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, and the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence.