

2013-J136

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim January 2013 as Thyroid 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 Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim January 2013 as Thyroid Health Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Thyroid Cancer and Thyroid Disease affect thousands of individuals each year; and

WHEREAS, About 56,460 new cases of Thyroid Cancer appear each year; 43,210 appear in women, and 13,250 in men; nearly 2 out of 3 cases are found in patients under the age of 55; and

WHEREAS, About 1,780 deaths from Thyroid Cancer occur each year in the United States alone; and

WHEREAS, Often, Thyroid Cancer appears as a small lump or swelling on the front of the neck, called nodules; other symptoms of Thyroid Cancer can include hoarseness, difficulty swallowing, an enlarged neck node or a persistent cough; and

WHEREAS, Of the four types of Thyroid Cancer (papillary, follicular, medullary and anaplastic), papillary carcinoma is the most common type; it usually grows slowly and is often curable; other, less common types of Thyroid Cancer are more aggressive and can be fatal; and

WHEREAS, Thyroid Disease occurs when the thyroid gland doesn't produce the right amount of hormones needed by the body for regulation of metabolism and other functions; and

WHEREAS, Depending on the severity, Thyroid Disease could be self-limited, treated with long term medication, or surgery; and

WHEREAS, Women are five to eight times more likely to develop Thyroid Disease than men; and

WHEREAS, Persons who are predisposed to Thyroid Disease include those with a personal or family history, current or former smokers, and those

with iodine deficiencies; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that 27 million Americans have Thyroid Disease, but more than half remain undiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, If untreated it can cause elevated cholesterol levels and subsequent heart disease, infertility, muscle weakness, osteoporosis, and in extreme cases coma or death; 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 those affected by Thyroid Cancer and Disease; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim January 2013 as Thyroid 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 Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.