

2013-J959

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 2013, as Lung Cancer 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 health 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, this Legislative Body hereby memorializes Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 2013, as Lung Cancer Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths for both men and women in the United States; affecting every ethnic population in the State of New York, the United States and the world, this year killing more Americans than breast, prostate, colon, liver and ovarian cancers combined; and

WHEREAS, In the United States in 2012, an estimated 226,160 people were diagnosed with lung cancer and an estimated 160,340 people died from lung cancer; this year, an estimated 159,480 Americans will die from the disease; and

WHEREAS, In New York in 2012, approximately 13,620 people were diagnosed with lung cancer, and the disease cost approximately 8,880 people their lives; and

WHEREAS, Although the one year relative survival rate for lung cancer has increased significantly due to improvements in surgical techniques and combined therapies, the five year survival rate for all stages of lung cancer combined, tragically, is only 16%; and

WHEREAS, Only 15% of people are diagnosed with lung cancer at the localized stage, for which the five-year survival rate is 52%, illustrating the importance of early detection in improving lung cancer survival outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Cigarette smoking is by far the most significant risk factor for and cause of lung cancer, with exposure to radon gas released from soil and building materials considered to be the second leading cause;

other risk factors include second hand smoke, occupational and environmental exposure to toxins and known carcinogens, and genetic abnormalities; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that 80% of lung cancer cases are diagnosed in people who have quit smoking or who have never smoked; and

WHEREAS, Lung cancer is a complex disease with treatment options contingent on the specific nature of the disease in each patient; thus, knowledge about the kind and stage of lung cancer will help determine the treatment necessary; and

WHEREAS, Increased awareness and coordination among all stakeholders, including federal and state government, providers, patient groups, medical researchers, community leaders and organizations, businesses and the public at large, is critical to promote the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of lung cancer; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 2013, as Lung Cancer Awareness 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.