

2013-J960

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2013, as Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention 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 May 2013 as Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States, affecting members of every racial and ethnic population in both New York State and the rest of the country; and

WHEREAS, Skin cancer will affect one in five Americans during their lifetime; nearly 800,000 Americans live with a history of melanoma and 13 million live with a history of nonmelanoma skin cancer; and

WHEREAS, Although the exact number of skin cancer cases is difficult to approximate, according to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 3.5 million people were diagnosed and 2.2 million were treated for the disease in 2006; this year 82,770 new cases are predicted, 4,200 of which will occur in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Despite accounting for less than five percent of all skin cancer cases, melanoma is the leading cause of skin cancer deaths; approximately 76,690 persons are expected to be diagnosed with melanoma in this year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Melanoma incidence rates have been rising for at least 30 years; women younger than the age of 40 develop melanoma at twice the rate of men; however, after the age of 40, the rate is higher in men, increasing to three times that of women after the age of 80; and

WHEREAS, Skin cancer will cost the lives of an estimated 12,650 people in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Risk factors for all types of skin cancer include frequent unprotected exposure to the harmful ultraviolet rays caused by both the

sun and tanning beds, as well as genetic factors such as skin type and tolerance to sunburn; for melanoma, a personal or family history of the disease, as well as the presence of atypical or numerous moles are major risk factors; and

WHEREAS, The five-year survival rate for patients whose melanoma is detected early, before spreading to other parts of the body is 98%; however, the survival rate falls to 15% for those with advanced disease; and

WHEREAS, Skin cancer is a highly curable disease when treated early; thus preventing progression towards the disease's latter stages should be of utmost concern; and

WHEREAS, Increased awareness and education among all stakeholders, including federal and state governments, patient groups, medical researchers, community leaders and organizers, the public and businesses, is critical to promote the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of skin cancer; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2013 as Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention 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.