

2013-J983

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 29 - May 5, 2013, as Screen-Free Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in recognizing official weeks established to increase awareness about the importance to "Be Screen Smart" in an effort to reduce the amount of time children spend connected to media-based entertainment in order to engage in activities that help all young children to learn and grow, improve their health and increase their success in school and life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 29 - May 5, 2013, as Screen-Free Week in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Screen-Free Week, a national campaign promoted regionally by The Early Years Institute (EYI), a regional nonprofit organization based on Long Island and hosted nationally by the Campaign for Commercial-Free Childhood, is about reducing screen-based entertainment, especially as schools become more technological, and engaging parents to take an annual pledge to reduce home use of screens and encouraging schools and community organizations to participate annually by offering alternative activities that will enhance children's school readiness, physical well-being, literacy, social and emotional development and communication skills; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of President Dana E. Friedman, EYI invites parents, schools, libraries, pediatricians, places of worship and parks to work together to promote children's health and well-being so they are prepared for school success; and

WHEREAS, Spending too much time with screens (TV, computers, video games, tablets, and cell phones) means they are not doing other things that are better for their health and education; and on average, preschool children, ages 2-5 spend 32 hours a week with screen media and children ages 8 to 18 spend 7.5 hours a week with screens; and this screen time has a negative impact on health by leading to childhood obesity, sleep disturbances and attention span issues; and a negative

effect on children's social and emotional development, such as increased hyperactivity, emotional problems and interpersonal problems with peers; and that the cumulative effect of such screen time means children are spending less time in creative play and activities that support the foundation of learning, creativity, problem-solving and conflict resolution that are critical for school success; and

WHEREAS, Screen-Free Week, formerly called Turn-off TV Week, an annual event welcomed by thousands of people nationwide and throughout our region, belongs to the children and families of NYS; and

WHEREAS, Success in school starts in the early years and has been supported by the Governor's Education Reform Commission and the Early Childhood Advisory Committee and today stands as a call-to-action for families, schools, libraries, child care providers, communities and businesses to contribute to the school success of all children; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of the Legislative Body that when nonprofits such as The Early Years Institute, a regional nonprofit organization based on Long Island, are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 29 - May 5, 2013, as an annual Screen-Free Week event in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, and Dana E. Friedman, Ed.D., President of The Early Years Institute.