

State of New York
Legislative Resolution

Senate No. 552



Assembly No. 266

BY: Senators Maziarz, Andrews, Balboni, Breslin, Brown, Bruno, Connor, DeFrancisco, Diaz, Dilan, Duane, Farley, Fuschillo, Gonzalez, Hannon, Hassell-Thompson, Hoffmann, Johnson, Krueger, Kruger, Kuhl, Lachman, Larkin, LaValle, Leibell, Little, Maltese, Marcellino, Marchi, McGee, Morahan, Onorato, Oppenheimer, Padavan, Rath, Sabini, Saland, Sampson, Skelos, M.Smith, Stachowski, Trunzo, Velella and Volker

BY: M. of A. Spano, Acampora, Alfano, Bacalles, Barclay, Barra, Barraga, Burling, Butler, Calhoun, Casale, Clark, Conte, Crouch, Cusick, Destito, L. Diaz, R. Diaz, DiNapoli, Errigo, Ferrara, Finch, Gordon, Gunther, Hayes, Hooker, Hoyt, Kolb, Koon, Labriola, Lavelle, Manning, McDonald, McEneny, Millman, Nesbitt, Oaks, O'Connell, Ortiz, Perry, Prentiss, Raia, Scozzafava, Seminerio, Sidikman, Stephens, Sweeney, Tedisco, Thiele, Tocci, Townsend, Weisenberg, Winner, Wirth and Young

MEMORIALIZING Governor George E. Pataki to proclaim October 17, 2003, as Lymphedema Education and Awareness Day, 2003, in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Assembled Body to memorialize Governor George E. Pataki to proclaim Friday, October 17, 2003, as Lymphedema Education and Awareness Day, 2003, in the State of New York, in conjunction with Breast Cancer Awareness Month in New York State; and

WHEREAS, Each year, Lymphedema Education and Awareness Day will occur in New York State to honor patients and to raise awareness of the severity of this condition; and

WHEREAS, Lymphedema, the accumulation of lymphatic fluid, may occur either as primary lymphedema which may be congenital, or secondary lymphedema which may occur as a result of surgery or treatments; this condition causes swelling in the arms, legs, genitalia, and/or other areas of the body, and afflicts more than 250,000 men and women nationwide, can lead to severe infection and can eventually be fatal; and

WHEREAS, Lymphedema may last for a few weeks or months, may recur after any period of time, or it may last a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, The swelling caused by lymphedema can lead to severe infection, disfigurement or loss of the use of limbs, and patients suffering from lymphedema must endure physical discomfort and disfigurement and cope with the stress caused by these symptoms; and

WHEREAS, The single largest group of people who endure lymphedema, more often referred to as secondary lymphedema, are cancer patients, including breast, prostate, testicular, gynecological, head, neck, lung, sarcoma, and melanoma patients; and

WHEREAS, The health, well-being, quality of life, and potential for cure for numerous lymphedema patients should not be jeopardized because of their lack of awareness; it is imperative to increase public knowledge about prevention and treatment of lymphedema and to stress the necessity for physical therapy or occupational therapy, with exercise, massage, compression, and hygiene to attain the goal of normal living; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative to increase public knowledge about the necessity for physical therapy or occupational therapy, and specific exercises to attain the goal of normal living for those dealing with breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, Recent studies have indicated that nearly 20 percent of breast cancer patients will develop lymphedema after surgery and radiation; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Cancer Institute, there are approximately 8.5 million Americans living after a diagnosis of cancer, of which about 2 million are breast cancer survivors; and

WHEREAS, Research in all areas of lymphedema has been notably limited; no drug or effective surgical treatment for lymphedema currently exists; and

WHEREAS, The most effective treatment to date is Complete Decongestive Therapy, which is relatively unknown and unavailable to the vast majority of the public; and

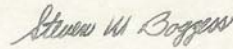
WHEREAS, In recognition of the financial, physical, and psychological impact that lymphedema has on those afflicted, it is incumbent upon the citizens of the State of New York to support the courageous individuals living and coping with this debilitating condition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor George E. Pataki to proclaim October 17, 2003, as Lymphedema Education and Awareness Day, 2003, in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York.

ADOPTED IN SENATE ON
March 4, 2003

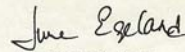
By order of the Senate,



Steven M. Boggess, *Secretary*

ADOPTED IN ASSEMBLY ON
March 3, 2003

By order of the Assembly,



June Egeland, *Clerk*

