Whereas, the Empire State places the highest priority on quality health care for all of our residents and appreciates those dedicated professionals who contribute to our state and nation's overall health care delivery system, including 296,365 registered professional nurses, 70,880 licensed practical nurses, and 23,168 nurse practitioners in New York State who hold many levels of expertise and proficiency; and

Whereas, representing the largest component of the statewide and nationwide health care community today, nurses fulfill some of the most challenging responsibilities and key roles within the health care delivery system; and

Whereas, nurses are leading advocates of overall public health whose scope of work encompasses more than 75 specialized areas ranging from neonatal care to gerontology; and

Whereas, as a diversely educated group of professionals, nurses provide indispensable care and expertise in a variety of settings—including large medical centers, local hospitals, outpatient clinics, state and county health departments, psychiatric centers, nursing homes, veterans homes, addiction treatment centers, correctional facilities, medical rehabilitation facilities, residences for individuals with developmental disabilities, adolescent residential and secure facilities, community facilities, schools, colleges and universities, and private offices; and

Whereas, the annual observance of National Nurses Week coincides with the May 12th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, who was the founder of the science of professional nursing and a leader in the development of public health; and

Whereas, this year's observance of National Nurses Week celebrates the theme "Nursing: The Balance of Mind, Body, and Spirit" recognizing that the nursing profession leads the charge for health and wellness, and an honorable mission founded upon the high standards set forth in the "Nightingale Pledge" of 1893, which helped to establish nursing as both an art and a science; and

Whereas, the American Nurses Association has designated 2017 as the "Year of the Healthy Nurse," defining a healthy nurse as someone who actively focuses on creating and maintaining a balance and synergy of physical, intellectual, emotional, social, spiritual, personal and professional wellbeing; each month of the year will focus on a specific wellness issue that can improve the lives of our nation's nurses, highlighting them as the best role models, educators, and advocates of health, safety, and wellness; and

Whereas, during this weeklong observance, we proudly join to recognize the registered professional nurses, licensed practical nurses, and nurse practitioners in New York State who are committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for all of their patients;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 6 - 12, 2017 as

NURSES WEEK

in the Empire State.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this second day
of May in the year two thousand seventeen.

[Signature]
Governor

Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa