

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATOR GILMOUR**

**Re: Supporting an Independent Investigation into Sexual Harassment Allegations
against Governor Cuomo**

WHEREAS, several women who worked for Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in the Executive Chamber have come forward in the past week making sexual harassment allegations against the Governor; and

WHEREAS, Lindsey Boylan, a former state economic development official, came forward with allegations that Governor Cuomo had harassed her on several occasions between 2016-2018, at one point giving her an unsolicited kiss on the lips at his Manhattan office; and

WHEREAS, Governor Cuomo's office has called Ms. Boylan's accusations untrue, but they led to some state elected officials calling for investigations into her claims; and

WHEREAS, the Sexual Harassment Working Group, an anti-sexual-harassment group made up of former state legislative staffers, called for an "immediate independent investigation into Governor Cuomo's workplace behavior, conducted by an entity over which Cuomo does not have any appointment or supervisory powers"; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte Bennett, who served as an executive assistant and health policy adviser to the Governor, and who is a sexual assault survivor, told *The New York Times* that the governor had harassed her in May-June 2020; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bennett said she reported the incident to the Governor's chief of staff, Jill DesRosiers, and was transferred to another job with an office on the opposite side of the Capitol, soon after, and Ms. Bennett also said she had also given a lengthy statement to a special counsel to the governor, Judith Mogul, in late June 2020, but she decided not to insist on an investigation because she was content in her new job and "wanted to move on"; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bennett also made contemporaneous comments about the Governor's alleged conduct to family members and friends, and exchanged text messages from that time commenting on the incident, as well as retained text messages from Ms. DesRosiers and Ms. Mogul that alluded to their meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Governor said in a statement to *The New York Times* that he believed he had been acting as a mentor to Ms. Bennett and he said he had "never made advances toward Ms. Bennett, nor did I ever intend to act in any way that was inappropriate"; and

WHEREAS, following the Bennett allegations, the Sexual Harassment Working Group called on Governor Cuomo to resign due to the sexual harassment allegations against him; and

WHEREAS, State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins called the allegations “extremely disturbing” and she called for New York State Attorney General Letitia James to conduct an independent inquiry – a call echoed by Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie; and

WHEREAS, many other state legislators and Members of Congress have come forward calling for an independent investigation of the allegations, and if true, for Cuomo to resign.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby requests that the New York State Attorney General’s Office conduct an independent investigation into the allegations of sexual harassment by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body condemns and deplors sexual harassment in all of its forms and notes our commitment to supporting victims of sexual assault and harassment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, to the Assembly Speaker, Senate Majority Leader, and the Attorney General.

Fiscal Impact: None for this resolution.