

Requesting New York State Governor Spitzer And The New York State Legislature To Promote Access To School-Based Mental Health Clinic Treatment Services By Eliminating Financial Obstacles

The Health Committee (Chairman R.S. Parete and Legislators Liepmann, Sheeley, Stoeckeler, Terpening, Busick and Roberti) and Legislators Aiello, Alfonso, Bartels, Berardi, Bischoff, Cahill, Cummings, Dart, Distel, Donaldson, Every, Fabiano, Felicello, Gerentine, Gregorius, Harris, Kraft, Lomita, Loughran, McAfee, Noonan, R.A. Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez, Shapiro and Zimet offer the following:

WHEREAS, Mental Health problems significantly affect the ability of youth to attend school and succeed academically, and

WHEREAS, access to school-based Mental Health Clinic treatment services has been demonstrated to improve school attendance and academic performance by improving access to treatment, and

WHEREAS, these benefits generate local financial savings through increased Education State aid related to attendance and decreased Special Education expenses, and

WHEREAS, school-based treatment services are particularly needed in rural counties where families are often unable to travel great distances to licensed clinics, and

WHEREAS, school-based treatment services do not generate enough revenues to be financially self-sufficient, and

WHEREAS, it is therefore necessary for counties or school districts to fund the portion of "net deficit" operating expenses that are not covered by revenues, and

WHEREAS, counties and school districts are under incredible pressure to maintain or reduce local tax levies, and

WHEREAS, this pressure is an impediment to the financing and availability of Mental Health treatment services in our schools, and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that New York State develop a financing plan to overcome this impediment so that all students have the opportunity to attain academic success and to promote a more productive society.

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature hereby requests that New York State Governor Eliot Spitzer and the New York State Legislature develop plans to

Resolution No. 104 March 14, 2007

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eliminate financial obstacles to the establishment of school-based Mental Health Clinic treatment services by removing the need for County and school district tax payers to subsidize these services.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Eliot Spitzer, New York State Comptroller's Office, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Senate Minority Leader Malcolm Smith, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Assembly Minority Leader James N. Tedisco, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin A. Cahill, Clifford W. Crouch, Peter D. Lopez and Thomas Kirwan, and the New York State Association of Counties,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 31 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislator Felicello)
(Legislator Every left at 8:15 PM)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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