

Requesting The Governor And The NYS Legislature To Reach Agreement On A Local Medicaid Cap

The Personnel / Human Services Committee (Chairman Aiello and Legislators Alfonso, Maloney, Noonan, Kraft, Loughran and Rodriguez) and Legislators Busick, Cummings, DePew, Every, Felicello, Gerentine, Harris, Hathaway, McAfee, Meyer, Roberti, Stock and Tipp offer the following:

WHEREAS, Medicaid is a vital component of New York's health care financing system, providing the resources to deliver health care to New York State's most vulnerable citizens, and

WHEREAS, since the enactment of the Medicaid program, counties in New York State have been required to contribute a 25 percent (25%) matching share with the exception of certain long-term care and mental health services, and

WHEREAS, in most states, the state government assumes all of the responsibility for the non-federal share of the Medicaid program, so that the burden of paying for the medically needy is distributed over the widest possible tax base, and

WHEREAS, nationally, New York State Counties fund eighty-five percent (85%) of all local Medicaid dollars taken by the states to fund the Medicaid program, and

WHEREAS, local taxpayers are currently funding a \$7 billion Medicaid local share that is growing at a double digit rate, making Medicaid the largest and most volatile single expense in county budgets, and

WHEREAS, the growth of local Medicaid costs are siphoning away the limited resources available to fund county budgets without adding new pressures on property taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, counties have called for a cap on local Medicaid costs as a way to stabilize local property taxes and lessen the burden the Medicaid program places on local real property taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, the Governor has made a proposal that would substantially reduce the impact of the Medicaid local share and provide long term stability to county government in New York, and

WHEREAS, this plan is not without controversy as it is legally tied to the enactment of over \$1.9 billion in state share Medicaid cost containment measures, and

Resolution No. 113 March 10, 2005

Requesting The Governor And The NYS Legislature To Reach Agreement On A Local Medicaid Cap

WHEREAS, in addition to this proposal, other members of the Senate and Assembly have introduced and supported various other “one-house” local Medicaid relief proposals, and

WHEREAS, the 2005-2006 Budget provides a unique window of opportunity for the Governor and members of the Senate and Assembly to come together and enact significant Medicaid relief that will lessen the burden of local real property taxes, and

WHEREAS, the Personnel/Human Services Committee have been polled and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval, and

WHEREAS, the Ways and Means Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval.

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature calls upon the Governor and the New York State Legislature to reach agreement on a local Medicaid cap during the 2005-2006 legislative session, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor George E. Pataki, Comptroller Alan Hevesi, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Senate Minority Leader David A. Paterson, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Minority Leader Charles Nesbitt, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin Cahill, Clifford Crouch, Daniel Hooker and Thomas Kirwan, and the New York State Association of Counties,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 33 NOES: 0

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE