

**Requesting New York State To Take Back Local Share Of Medicaid As A Component Of True Medicaid Reform And To Utilize Current Budget Surplus To Fund Same**

The Human Development Committee (Chairman Kraft and Legislators Distel, Liepmann, Loughran, Provenzano, Harris and Noonan) and Legislators Bartels, Berardi, Bischoff, Cahill, Dart, Donaldson, Gregorius, Lomita, R.A. Parete, R.S. Parete, Rodriguez, Shapiro, Sheeley, Stoeckeler, Terpening, Zimet and Felicello offer the following:

WHEREAS, New York State is one of the few states nationwide who passes down a percentage of Medicaid costs to the County level, which in New York State amounts to 20 -25% on average, and

WHEREAS, the State of New York is in the midst of budget negotiations, and as part of that process are looking to spend the budget surplus that can only be viewed as a windfall, and

WHEREAS, true Medicaid Reform will stem reverse in economic growth and migration away from New York State of businesses and taxpayers to more friendly environs, will stabilize economic impacts on health care providers, and will modernize current laws that allow for shielding of large levels of income by individuals who should pay for their care, and

WHEREAS, without true reform, Medicaid will continue to grow and strip the life of Ulster County of their vitality and any hope of fiscal stability for years to come, and

WHEREAS, Ulster County is tired of bearing unfunded mandates and placing them on the backs of taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, true Medicaid Reform would include as an intricate part, New York State taking back all Medicaid costs passed down to Counties, and

WHEREAS, Ulster County proposes that the State of New York utilize the current budget surplus to start taking back the local share, implementation of which should span a five (5) year period at the rate of twenty (20%) percent of the local share per year, so that at the conclusion of the five (5) year period the State would be bearing the full load of Medicaid, and

WHEREAS, implementation of this program should not include offsetting by County revenues such as sales tax or the like, and

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

Resolution No. 142 April 11, 2006

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RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature requests that the State of New York, as part of larger true Medicaid Reform, utilize the current budget surplus to take back the local costs paid by Counties statewide, which program should be implemented over a five (5) year period at the rate of twenty (20%) percent, so that at the end of that term the State of New York shall bear all Medicaid costs state-wide without contribution by offset or otherwise from Counties, 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 Majority Leader Paul A. Tokasz, 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: 31 NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislators Aiello and Sheeley)

Legislator Harris motioned, seconded by Legislator Noonan to refer resolution back to the Human Development Committee.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 11 NOES: 20  
(AYES: Legislators Bartels, Alfonso, Busick,  
Cummings, Every, Fabiano, Felicello, Gerentine, Harris,  
McAfee, Noonan and Roberti)  
(Absent: Legislators Aiello and Sheeley)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
NONE