

**Requesting A Formal Recommendation From The Ulster County Board Of Health On The Adoption Of A Local Law To Be Known As “The Ulster County Recruitment and Retention Act of 2010”**

Legislator Robert S. Parete and Co-Sponsors: The Health and Human Services Committee (Chairman Frey and Legislators Harris, Petit, Ronk, Briggs, Robert Parete and Stoeckeler) offer the following:

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature understands the importance of a healthy community by focusing on important behaviors such as improved food choices, increased physical activity, and reduced screen time, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature has a long history of creating innovative initiatives that promote healthy living, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature created the Ulster County Charter that mandated, through legislation, that a physician lead the Ulster County Department of Health, and

WHEREAS, according the Ulster County Charter, section C-42. The Ulster County Board of Health can advise the Legislature in matters relating to the Department of Health. Furthermore, the Board of Health shall have and exercise such other and related duties required by the Legislature, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature is obligated to protect the health and well-being of residents in Ulster County, and

WHEREAS, the lack of recognized health care professionals in Ulster County harms the delivery of basic care. The presence of a variety of health care professionals in rural settings in New York, State, particularly Ulster County, is reaching alarming stages that must be addressed in order for our community to enhance the quality of life, and

WHEREAS, in recent years, there has been a substantial decline in enrollment in health care training programs because the cost of such training is often prohibitive and represents an insurmountable barrier for many residents of rural areas. Currently, the law allows county awards only for professional education in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, optometry, and veterinary medicine. By broadening the scope of the recognized and licensed health care professionals, the health care needs in rural communities will be better addressed, and

WHEREAS, Section 606 of the New York State Education Law allows a county in New York State to establish an awards program. Section 606 states, *County awards for professional education in nursing, medicine, dentistry, optometry or veterinary medicine. Each county of the state outside New York city is hereby*

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*authorized to establish awards in such manner as the local legislative body of such county may determine, for attendance by legal residents of this state, who meet the citizenship requirements established by article fourteen of this chapter for the professional study of nursing, medicine, dentistry, optometry or veterinary medicine, at approved nursing, medical, dental, optometry or veterinary medicine schools within the United States, conditioned upon the promise of the scholarship holder to practice nursing, medicine, dentistry, optometry or veterinary medicine in such county for such period as such body may fix, following his licensing as a nurse, physician, dentist, optometrist or veterinarian. Each such award shall entitle the recipient to such sum of money as may be fixed by such body while in attendance at approved nursing, medical, dental, optometry or veterinary medicine schools in the United States during a period of not to exceed four years of professional study and for physicians for a further period of not to exceed two years while engaged in an internship or as a resident physician in an accredited hospital in the United States. Such awards may, as an alternative to awards hereinbefore authorized, be granted by any such county to those already so licensed to practice nursing, medicine, dentistry, optometry or veterinary medicine upon the promise of such grantees to practice within the county for a period of time and upon such terms and conditions as the county may fix, provided such recipient did not receive a similar award while a student. The county shall appropriate annually such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the costs of such awards and moneys so appropriated shall be deemed appropriated for a lawful county purpose and shall be raised by the same method as moneys required for other lawful county, and*

WHEREAS, the Health and Human Services Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature desires to enhance the current healthcare system by adopting a local law to attract and retain physicians in Ulster County through an award program, to be known as **"The Ulster County Healthcare Professional Recruitment and Retention Act of 2010,"** and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature has requested a recommendation from the Ulster County Board of Health, prior to the adoption of a Local Law. The basis of the Local Law should contain the following approach in an effort to recruit and retain quality physicians:

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- Awardees must agree to engage in an “internship” for a period of time deemed satisfactory by the Board of Health.
- Awardees shall devote a significant amount of time each week to care for the uninsured and/or underinsured in clinical locations as determined by the Commissioner of Department of Social Services and Public Health Director of the Ulster County Department of Health.
- Allocate funding, by means of public or private partnerships, to reimburse awardees for tuition costs.
- Participating healthcare institutions shall provide housing for awardees.
- Awardees shall be selected by a review board consisting of the President of the Ulster County Chapter of the American Medical Association, Public Health Director of the Ulster County Department of Health, the Ulster County Executive, Chairman of the Ulster County Board of Health, and the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature,

and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Mr. Thomas Stellato, MD, Chairman, and all members of the Board of Health,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 29                      NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislators Frey, Richard Parete and Provenzano)  
(Legislator Petit left at 8:00 PM)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE

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STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2010, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of July in the year Two Thousand and Ten.

/s/ Karen L. Binder  
Karen L. Binder, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature

Submitted to the County Executive this

22<sup>nd</sup> Day of July, 2010.

/s/ Karen L. Binder  
Karen L. Binder, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature

Approved by the County Executive this

29<sup>th</sup> Day of July, 2010.

/s/ Michael P. Hein  
Michael P. Hein, County Executive