

**Supporting New York State Assembly Bill No. A05659 And New York State Senate Bill No. S01646 – Removing December 31, 2009 Sunset Date On Timothy’s Law And Thereby Making Mental Health Parity Permanent In New York State**

Legislator Terpening and the Health Services Committee (Chairman R.S. Parete and Legislators Briggs, Stoeckeler, Terpening, Petit, Roberti and Ronk) offer the following:

WHEREAS, in March 2001, twelve-year-old Timothy O’Clair died; his family spent nearly five years seeking the necessary treatment and service for his emotional disorder; his parents sought help for their son and ran into barriers; those barriers were the limits on coverage under insurance policies for mental health and substance abuse services; his parents believe that had their health insurance policy provided equal coverage for mental health and chemical dependency services as are provided for other health services, Timothy O’Clair would be here today, and

WHEREAS, Chapter 748 of the Laws of 2006, “Timothy’s Law”, which took effect January 1, 2007, requires insurers issuing group or school blanket health insurance policies or contracts in New York to provide a minimum of 30 inpatient days and 20 outpatient visits (30/20 benefit) for the treatment of mental health for the treatment of mental health conditions; Timothy’s Law also requires large group health insurance policies (with more than 50 employees or members) to provide coverage for adults and children diagnosed with biologically based mental illnesses and children diagnosed with serious emotional disturbances at the same level of coverage as is provided for other health conditions, and

WHEREAS, Timothy’s Law took effect on January 1, 2007, and is currently set to expire on December 31, 2009, and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2009, on what would have been Timothy O’Clair’s 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, Governor David A. Paterson announced legislation to make permanent Chapter 748 of the Laws of 2006, “Timothy’s Law,” named in his memory, and

WHEREAS, New York State Assembly Bill No. A05659 and New York State Senate Bill No. S1646 remove the December 31, 2009 sunset date on Timothy’s Law and thereby makes mental health parity permanent in New York State, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature strongly agrees with making mental health parity permanent in New York State to ensure that New Yorkers receive mental health benefits critical to their success at work, in school and at home; making Timothy’s Law permanent will ensure that New Yorkers continue to receive the quality mental health benefits they need, now, therefore, be it

Resolution No. 201 June 10, 2009

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RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature supports New York State Assembly Bill No. A05659 and similar New York State Senate Bill No. S01646 removing the December 31, 2009 sunset date on Timothy’s Law and thereby making mental health parity permanent in New York State, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor David Paterson, Senate Majority Leader Malcolm Smith, Senate Minority Leader Dean G. Skelos, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Assembly Minority Leader Brian M. Kolb, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin A. Cahill, Clifford W. Crouch, Peter Lopez and Frank K. Skartados and the New York State Association of Counties,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 28

NOES: 0

(Absent: Legislators Aiello, Lomita, R.A. Parete, Roberti and Sheeley)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
NONE

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