

Urging United States Congress To Equalize The Medicare Reimbursement For Hospitals In Ulster And Dutchess Counties

The Health and Human Services Committee (Chairman Frey and Legislators Harris, Petit, Ronk, Briggs, Robert Parete and Stoeckeler) offers the following:

WHEREAS, in a recent report from the HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley (Benedictine Hospital and the Kingston Hospital), as of September 2009, they report the following:

- Average wages in Ulster County hospitals have fallen below 85% of peer hospital wages;
- Hospital workers in Ulster County have not received wage increases in two years;
- Due to the years of inequity, salaries in Ulster County have fallen below the threshold to remain in the Poughkeepsie/Newburgh MSA;
- Ulster County hospitals are economically disadvantaged while surrounding hospitals in adjoining counties are experiencing significant gains;
- Ulster County hospitals have an extremely difficult time recruiting and retaining nurses;
- Ulster County hospitals are performing the same procedures as in adjacent counties and receiving significantly different reimbursement (in many cases, these procedures are performed by exactly the same physicians); and

WHEREAS, Ulster and Dutchess Counties are equidistant from the New York City metropolitan area and should be reimbursed at the same rate as Dutchess County hospitals, and

WHEREAS, the people of Ulster County are losing \$10 million per year with the current lower Medicare Hospital Reimbursement, and

WHEREAS, this is unfair for the healthcare and economic situation of Ulster County residents, now, therefore, be it

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 as representatives of the people of Ulster County urge the United States Congress to equalize the Medicare Reimbursement for hospitals in Ulster and Dutchess Counties, and, be it further

Resolution No. 234 September 21, 2010

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RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to President Barack Obama, United States Senators Kirsten E. Gillibrand and Charles Schumer, United States Congressman Maurice Hinchey, and the National Association of Counties,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 31 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Briggs and Richard Parete)
(Legislator Fabiano left at 7:44 PM)
(Legislator Richard Parete arrived at 8:43 PM)

FINANCIAL IMPACT
NONE

0903

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 21st day of September, 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 23rd Day of September in the year Two Thousand and Ten.

Karen L. Binder, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature