

**Urging Multi-Year State Takeover Of Local Share Of Medicaid –  
NYS Senate Bill S5889-B And Assembly Bill No. A8644**

Legislators Provenzano, Donaldson, Gregorius, Hochberg, Lomita, Rodriguez, Sheeley and Legislators Aiello, Bernardo, Felicello, Frey, Gerentine, Hansut, Harris, Hayes, Maio, Maloney, Petit, Sweeney, Terrizzi and Wadnola and Co-Sponsors: The Governmental Services and Administration Committee (Chairman Roberts and Legislators Belfiglio, Fabiano, Ronk, Robert Parete, Madsen and Rodriguez) offer the following:

WHEREAS, county officials across the state are presently introducing their 2012 budgets, and

WHEREAS, these budget decisions are being made under the constraints of the State's new property tax cap, and

WHEREAS, when State lawmakers enacted a property tax cap, they pledged to provide mandate relief that would enable and empower local leaders to implement that tax cap locally, and

WHEREAS, that mandate relief has not materialized, and

WHEREAS, by far, at a local statewide cost of \$7.3 billion, Medicaid is the number one mandate facing counties, and

WHEREAS, State Legislation (Senate Bill No. S5889-B and Assembly Bill No. A8644) will require state policymakers to take full fiscal responsibility for New York's largest in the nation Medicaid program, by implementing an eight (8) year gradual State takeover of county Medicaid costs, and

WHEREAS, removing county taxpayers from the financing of Medicaid is the single most important thing the State Legislature can do to lower property taxes for New Yorkers, and

WHEREAS, the State takeover of county Medicaid costs will lead to lower property taxes and enhance New York's economic competitiveness and improve economic opportunities for all New Yorkers, and

WHEREAS, state lawmakers can fund the takeover with a combination of Medicaid program reforms, state-derived savings and other spending controls, including, applying MRT (Medicaid Redesign Team) reform savings to mandate relief and pursuing a federal Medicaid waiver to leverage state cost containment initiatives that can be applied to property tax relief and applying future revenues to

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lowering property taxes and by allowing federal health care reforms to cover New Yorkers, and

WHEREAS, the Governmental Services and Administration 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 calls on State lawmakers to keep their promise, and sign on to legislation (Senate Bill No. S5889-B and Assembly Bill No. A8644) designed to provide mandate relief for counties, in the form of an eight-year State takeover of county Medicaid costs, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Dean G. Skelos, Senate Minority Leader John L. Sampson, 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, Thomas Kirwan and Peter Lopez and the New York State Association of Counties,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 28                      NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislators Briggs, Felicello and Frey)  
(Legislator Sheeley left at 7:55 PM)  
(Legislator Stoeckeler left at 7:55 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2011, 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 20<sup>th</sup> Day of October in the year Two Thousand and Eleven.

/s/ Karen L. Binder

Karen L. Binder, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature