

**Calling For Ulster County To Create A “Fair Share For Health Care Act”**

Legislators Aiello, R.S. Parete, Rodriguez and Zimet offer the following:

WHEREAS, County expenditures on Medicaid have grown significantly over the past 10 years, and

WHEREAS, the County is still experiencing increases in Medicaid payments, and

WHEREAS, County expenditures on the “Safety Net” Assistance Program have also grown significantly, and

WHEREAS, low wage workers in grocery and retail sectors, particularly “big box” retailers, often have to turn to County funded programs such as Medicaid, and

WHEREAS, the County “in effect” subsidizes these employers by providing taxpayer funded health care (i.e. Medicaid) for our lower wage workers, and

WHEREAS, the County has a vital interest to ensure that the cost of providing health care to employees in the grocery and retail industry is not shifted to the taxpayers and the public health care system, and

WHEREAS, small retailers, the backbone of Ulster County’s economy, would largely be exempted by such provisions, and

WHEREAS, the Suffolk County Legislature is examining similar legislation.

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature shall instruct its Personnel/Human Services Committee and its Health Care Committees to jointly address this issue, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, a committee shall be formed of one member of the majority and minority parties from each committee, with a fifth member to be appointed by the Chairman of the Legislature, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the committee shall report back its initial findings before January 2006,

and moves its adoption.

Resolution No. 294 October 6, 2005

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ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE

**REFERRED BACK TO COMMITTEE**

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