

Supporting New York State Assembly Bill No. A09130 – To Amend The Insurance Law In Relation To Requiring Insurance Companies To Disclose Claims Information To Municipalities To Determine How Their Benefits Are Used

Legislator Loughran and co-sponsors: The Human Development and Personnel Committee (Chairman Gregorius and Legislators Loughran, Provenzano, Terpening, Hansut, Noonan and Terrizzi) offer the following:

WHEREAS, the purpose of New York State Assembly Bill No. A09130 is to require insurance companies to disclose claims information to municipalities to determine how their benefits are used, and

WHEREAS, New York State Assembly Bill No. A09130 would allow different levels of government an opportunity to assess accurately the true needs of their employees when addressing health care benefits. This bill would allow these governments to negotiate more effectively with all insurance companies that are bidding on future contracts, and

WHEREAS, every year local governments are responsible to put in place budgets that reflect sound fiscal planning on the part of their leadership. Taxpayers expect transparency, assume that services will be provided, and this will be accomplished by using reasonable measure to keep the rising cost down. Providing a health care benefit packaged to employees has become very expensive for local governments, and

WHEREAS, insurance companies are not required by New York State law to maintain or disclose utilization rates to local governments. This is accomplished by claiming these local governments are part of a “community rated” group and are a fraction of aggregate of other groups. Not providing the utilization rates creates an unfair advantage for the insurance companies and puts the local governments at a disadvantage, and

WHEREAS, in effect town, village, city and county governments across the state cannot determine how well health care benefits are being utilized by their employees because large insurance companies hide behind the protection of law, or in this case no law requiring this information be provided. Furthermore, not having utilization rate requirements in place prohibits fair and reasonable negotiations on behalf of the governments, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature strongly agrees with allowing different levels of government an opportunity to assess accurately the true needs of their employees when addressing health care benefits. This bill would allow these

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governments to negotiate more effectively with all insurance companies that are bidding on future contracts, and

WHEREAS, the Human Development and Personnel 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 supports New York State Assembly Bill No. A09130, an act to amend the insurance law, in relation to requiring insurance companies to disclose claims information to municipalities, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor David Paterson, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Assembly Minority Leader Brian M. Kolb, 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 move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 28 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Briggs, Cummings, Sheeley, Stoeckeler, and Zimet)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE