

Opposing The Harmful Impacts Of The “Big Beautiful Bill”

Referred to: The Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Gavaris and Legislators Collins, Hansut, Kovacs, Nolan, Roberts, and Uchitelle)

Majority Leader Abe Uchitelle and Legislators Clinton, Collins, Criswell, Donaldson, Gavaris, Greene, Harmon, Hewitt, Levine, McCollough, Nolan, Sperry, and Stewart offer the following:

WHEREAS, the “Big Beautiful Bill” is an omnibus measure that bundles numerous and unrelated provisions into a single vote, limiting accountability and obscuring real-world impacts on working families; and

WHEREAS, nonpartisan and sector analyses find the law would significantly reduce federal support for health coverage, leaving about 1.5 million New Yorkers uninsured and producing multi-billion-dollar losses for hospitals and community providers, including destabilization of New York’s Essential Plan; and

WHEREAS, the legislation weakens nutrition security by cutting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and shifting major costs to states and local governments, with New York’s fiscal watchdog estimating \$1.4–\$2.2 billion in new annual state/local costs, alongside estimates that roughly 300,000 New York households could lose some or all SNAP benefits under new rules; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County Comptroller March Gallagher reports that Ulster County has over 17,000 or 10% of County residents on SNAP and over 48,000 or 27% of residents on Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, starting in 2026, veterans receiving SNAP benefits will have to meet strict work requirements— at least 80 hours a month of working, volunteering, participating in job training, or looking for work —or risk losing assistance. This change ends a long-standing exemption and affects many of the 1.2 million low-income veterans nationwide who rely on food stamps; and

WHEREAS, these provisions cumulatively shift burdens onto middle-class families, veterans, seniors, small businesses, hospitals, farmers, and local governments while disproportionately benefiting the ultra-wealthy—contrary to the goal of lowering everyday costs for working families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature finds the “Big Beautiful Bill” harmful to our constituents, local hospitals and providers, family budgets, and county finances, and hereby opposes its provisions; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature urges Congress to replace these provisions with a bipartisan approach that:

Resolution No. 483 October 21, 2025

Opposing The Harmful Impacts Of The “Big Beautiful Bill”

1. protects and expands affordable health-care coverage, Medicare/Medicaid, and stabilizes hospitals and community providers;
2. maintains and strengthens SNAP so no child, senior, veteran, or working family goes hungry;
3. prioritizes middle-class tax relief and small-business growth rather than giveaways to the ultra-wealthy; and
4. delivers real fiscal responsibility by lowering costs for families without shifting unfunded mandates to state and local governments; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that, in the interim, the Ulster County Legislature urges the Governor and State Legislature to recapture, through state tax code reform, the windfall in the federal budget to large corporations and the wealthiest households in order to mitigate federal cuts and cost shifts that will unduly burden local property taxpayers, most of whom are seniors and working families; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature shall transmit copies of this Resolution to U.S. Representative Pat Ryan, Senator Charles E. Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Governor Kathy Hochul, State Senator Michelle Hinchey, State Assemblywoman Sarahana Shrestha, and other appropriate federal and state officials, and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Passed Committee: Ways and Means on _____.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE