ECLEG NOV27'12 AM 9:02

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS MARINELLI, GRANT, MAZUR, HOGUES & McCRACKEN

RE: Expressing Opposition to Federal and State Budget Cuts that Would Impact Nutrition Programs for Senior Citizens

WHEREAS, during the budget hearing for the Erie County Department of Senior Services, the Erie County Legislature was informed that, effective January 1, 2013, the department will absorb a severe decrease in funding for senior citizen nutrition programs; and

WHEREAS, the specific program that will be discontinued is the pilot program for frozen weekend meals, putting an end to the availability of nearly 10,000 meals for Erie County's senior citizens over the course of a year; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the aforementioned federal cuts will force the state to reduce Title IIIC funding, which also impacts congregate dining and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program); and

WHEREAS, these cuts will be implemented even if the looming sequestration issue is resolved, and would be substantially worsened if the nation's "fiscal cliff" results in massive cuts to domestic programs including those that allow senior citizens to live out their golden years in dignity and above the poverty level.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body pause in its deliberations to appeal to federal and state policymakers to mitigate the impact of federal and state budget cuts on the elderly, particularly in the area of senior nutrition programs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be conveyed to President Barack Obama, U.S. Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, the WNY Congressional Delegation, the WNY Delegation to the New York State Legislature, County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Erie County Commissioner of Senior Services Ellen Grant and all others deemed necessary and proper.

FISCAL IMPACT: Substantial negative impact to Erie County residents from anticipated federal and state budget cuts to nutrition programs for senior citizens.