

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATORS GRANT, MAZUR, MILLS, HOGUES, MARINELLI,
HARDWICK, LOUGHRAN, RATH, McCRACKEN, DIXON & LORIGO**

RE: Requesting that the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Investigate the Reuse of Insulin Pens at the VA of WNY Healthcare System

WHEREAS, recent media reports have shed light on a past nursing practice that may have exposed more than 700 diabetic patients at the VA of Western New York Healthcare System in Buffalo to viruses including HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C through the reuse of insulin pens; and

WHEREAS, a routine pharmacy inspection apparently uncovered insulin pens that did not have the names of patients on them, a discovery that would indicate that each pen was not dedicated for the treatment of only one diabetic patient; and

WHEREAS, although the risk of spread of viruses is said to be low as the needles were used once on each patient, then discarded, even a small risk of infection deserves a thorough review and the implementation of policies and procedures to prohibit and prevent any such practice in the future; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer and Congressman Brian Higgins have asked the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to investigate the hospital's error; and

WHEREAS, the Inspector General's expertise to conduct an unbiased investigation would best serve the interests of veterans, their families and the general public, all of whom are seeking assurances that the issue will be investigated and resolved expeditiously; and

WHEREAS, the review should include an explanation of the delay in notifying the patients, who purportedly learned of the reuse of insulin pens from media reports after Members of Congress were briefed; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the VA Western New York Healthcare System in Buffalo has risen to its motto, "Defining Excellence in the 21st Century" by providing compassionate and competent medical care, diagnosis and treatment to the veterans of our region; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body urges quick action on this matter to renew the public's confidence in the vitally important work done at the VA of Western New York Healthcare System in Buffalo on behalf of our veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature call upon the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to investigate the recently disclosed insulin pen error at the VA of Western New York Healthcare System in Buffalo; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be conveyed to U.S. Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand; Members of Congress Brian Higgins, Louise Slaughter and Chris Collins; Brian Stiller, Medical Center Director of the VA Healthcare System in Buffalo; the VALER4Valor ad hoc committee of the Erie County Legislature; and all others deemed necessary and proper.

FISCAL IMPACT: None for resolution.