

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED  
BY LEGISLATOR GRANT, MAZUR & HOGUES**

**RE: Supporting the Multi-year Restoration of Adequate State Funding for Child Protection, Foster Care and Youth Detention Services**

WHEREAS, the safety and welfare of Erie County's children, and all children in New York State, should remain a high priority; and

WHEREAS, State funding for child welfare and related foster care programs has decreased by tens of millions of dollars statewide over the past three years through a reduction in the State's matching rate (down to 62 percent from 65 percent), despite the increase in child welfare protective service cases statewide; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2013, the Erie County Department of Social Services made a presentation on child welfare services to the members of the Health & Human Services Committee that confirmed the increased number of cases in Erie County, mirroring the statewide data; and

WHEREAS, New York State has also eliminated state administrative funding to support a wide variety of state and federally designed and mandated social service programs, in addition to capping program reimbursement for youth detention, foster care and other critical social services; and

WHEREAS, the State has also failed to provide dedicated funding for its Kinship Guardian Assistance Program, further increasing fiscal pressure on counties at a time when caseloads are increasing.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, in the waning days of New York State Budget negotiations between the Governor and State Legislature, the Erie County Legislature request consideration for a multi-year strategic plan to attain adequate funding levels for child welfare services by gradually restoring – over the next few budget cycles – the historic child welfare state funding match to 65 percent, as well as to further maintain funding for the Foster Care Block Grant while, at the same time, maximizing local social service district flexibility to request a “carve out” for innovative projects; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that by doing so, the State Legislature and Governor will renew their commitment to the safety, service delivery, permanency, continuing care/adoption and well-being of the children of Erie County and New York State; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be conveyed to the Governor, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Leader of the Republican Conference of the State Senate, the Leader of the Independent Democratic Conference of the State Senate and all others deemed necessary and proper.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None for resolution.