

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY  
LEGISLATOR LORIGO, RATH & HARDWICK**

**Re: Supporting Prevention of Illicit Drug Use by Social Service Recipients**

WHEREAS, social service programs, such as Medicaid and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are intended to assist individuals through difficult financial times until the individual can re-enter the workforce; and

WHEREAS, when operated as intended, these programs are wise investments of taxpayer dollars in a compassionate society seeking to maximize the potential and productivity of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, studies have demonstrated that illicit drug users tend to be less employable and less effective parents than individuals who do not use illicit drugs; and

WHEREAS, in fact, the use of illicit drugs can be very detrimental to the workplace and family environments; and

WHEREAS, illicit drug use should not be subsidized by taxpayers and should be discouraged; and

WHEREAS, New York State should take more stringent steps to discourage drug use by recipients of social services, including increased education, rehabilitation assistance and termination of benefits for repeated illicit drug users.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Erie County Legislature respectfully requests New York State to implement policies to discourage illicit drug use by social service recipients, including the termination of benefits for illicit drug users; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Andrew Cuomo and the Western New York Delegation of the New York State Senate and Assembly.

**Fiscal Impact: Positive for New York State taxpayers**