

SUSPENSION

INTRO 2-4

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY LEGISLATORS MILLS, RATH, WALTER, DIXON, FUDOLI & HARDWICK

Re: Supporting changes to New York State law to reduce the cost of Medicaid to taxpayers

WHEREAS, Medicaid was established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid is a taxpayer funded program to provide medical care to lower income families; and

WHEREAS, states have the option of whether or not to participate in the Medicaid program; and

WHEREAS, if a state participates, it must meet all of the federal minimum requirements; and

WHEREAS, states also have the option to exceed the minimum federal requirements; and

WHEREAS, for example, in New York State, children under one and pregnant women with family income under 200% of the poverty level are eligible for Medicaid, whereas the federal eligibility cut-off is 133% of the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, New York State also provides optional services not required for participation in the federal Medicaid program, including prescription drugs, dental care, eyeglasses and vision care, home health services, case management and rehabilitation services; and

WHEREAS, County Executive Chris Collins recently noted that \$201 million of the \$211 million collected in property tax collected in 2010 went to fund the county's share of Medicaid while calling on New York State to allow counties to choose which optional Medicaid services to provide; and

WHEREAS, State Senator Michael Ranzenhofer and Assemblyman Robin Schimminger have previously submitted legislation to modify Social Services Law §365-A and §366 to allow counties to select which optional Medicaid services to fund and provide, as well as eligibility requirements; and

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that such a change in the law could potentially save Erie County taxpayers more than \$80 million per year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature supports amending Social Services Law §365-A and §366 to give counties input as to eligibility requirements and which optional services to fund and provide to eligible Medicaid recipients; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos and the local delegation to the New York State Legislature.

Fiscal Impact: Positive for Erie County taxpayers