

INTRO 14-2

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY LEGISLATORS MILLER-WILLIAMS, WHYTE, GRANT, BOVE, MARINELLI & LOUGHRAN

Re: Requesting Social Services Commissioner and Budget Director Appear Before Finance and Management Committee to Discuss Child Care Subsidies

WHEREAS, since the 1990's the County of Erie has offered a subsidy for child care expenses to families making 200% of federal poverty level. This subsidy was primarily funded through state and federal dollars with small county share; and

WHEREAS, in December of 2009 the County Executive announced he was reducing the income eligibility guidelines for families from 200% FPL to 125% because it was projected at the time that the program would not have sufficient resources to cover all of the eligible participants at the 200% FPL level. It has been reported, according to the Budget Director that 900 children and their families in Erie County lost their child care subsidies with this reduction; and

WHEREAS, in August of 2010 the Erie County Department of Social Services announced that it was increasing the income eligibility levels to 175% of FPL. It has been reported that with this increase only 200 children returned to the program; and

WHEREAS, COMM. 11E-7 (2011) 2010 Year End Budget Balancing Amendments and Designations indicates that at the close of the 2010 budget year \$7,144,238.00 remained in the child care subsidy account.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services Carole Dankert and the Budget Director Greg Gach, appear before the next meeting of the Finance and Management Committee to explain why \$7,144,238.00 remained in the program at the end of the year and what plans they have to assure that families who qualify for the child care subsidy are informed of their eligibility and encouraged to apply to the program.

FISCAL IMPACT: None for the Resolution