

# SUSPENSION

## **A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY LEGISLATORS MILLS, LORIGO, GRANT, MILLER-WILLIAMS, SAVAGE, HARDWICK, LOUGHRAN, RATH, BURKE, MORTON & DIXON**

### **RE: Requesting the Restoration of State Funding for Roswell Park Cancer Institute**

WHEREAS, Roswell Park Cancer Institute is among the oldest National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the United States; and in 1897, Dr. Roswell Park and Mr. Edward H. Butler, publisher of the Buffalo Evening News, requested that the New York State Legislature to introduce a bill that would provide a \$7,500 grant to establish a cancer research laboratory at the University of Buffalo School of Medicine; and

WHEREAS, that bill was passed in 1898, and the New York State Pathological Laboratory of the University of Buffalo – the first facility in the world dedicated specifically to cancer research – was founded; the facility, which gave birth to what would later be known as Roswell Park Cancer Institute, has been cited as the earliest historical example of direct government investment in cancer research; and

WHEREAS, since 1974 Roswell Park has been recognized by the National Cancer Institute as a Comprehensive Cancer Center, it was the nation's first, served as a national model, and is the only Comprehensive Cancer Center in Upstate New York; and

WHEREAS, Roswell Park Cancer Institute is ranked among the nation's top cancer hospitals by U.S. News & World Report, and is one of Western New York's top 20 employers; and

WHEREAS, Roswell Park Cancer Institute and their new Clinical Sciences Center, currently under construction, play a pivotal role along with the new John R. Oishei Women's and Children's Hospital of Buffalo and the University at Buffalo Medical School, in the continued growth of the downtown medical campus, and the continued private development that will complement the governmental and non-profit institutions; and

WHEREAS, annual state funding for Roswell Park has remained stable at \$102.6 million in the last three fiscal years, but the Governor's proposed state budget cuts that important funding for Roswell Park Cancer Institute by \$15.5 million, to \$87.1 million, or by more than 15%.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

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RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature declares immeasurable appreciation and respect for the State of New York in their many contributions – both financially and advocacy and for more than one hundred years – that has led to Roswell Park Cancer Institute to becoming one of the premier cancer treatment and research centers in the world; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Legislative Body further states that continued funding at its current level by New York is important to Roswell Park Cancer Institute, the community served by the hospital, and the vital on-going research that aims to cure cancer; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature goes on record respectfully requesting that the State of New York restore critical funding to Roswell Park Cancer Institute that has been reduced in the proposed state budget for the coming fiscal year; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor of New York State, Majority Leader of the New York State Senate, the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, and the entire WNY delegation to Albany.

FISCAL IMPACT: None for resolution.