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ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

HON. JOSEPH C. LORIGO
10TH DISTRICT LEGISLATOR
MAJORITY LEADER

January 9, 2015

Erie County Attorney's Office
Michael Siragusa, Esq.
95 Franklin St. – Suite 1934
Buffalo, N.Y. 14202

Dear Mr. Siragusa,

Yesterday, Comptroller Mychajliw officially released an audit of Correctional Health Services and Inmate Medical Costs detailing the results of their investigation into medical services provided to inmates.

One of the main conclusions was that Erie County is spending large sums of money paying the co-pays for inmates at the Erie County Holding Center. This is a problem that impacts the entire state and only serves to add to the budgetary pressure imposed by Albany. We all need to work together to ensure that the most equitable practices are followed, limiting the expenses that Western New York taxpayers are forced fund whenever possible.

One of my colleagues previously submitted a resolution calling on New York State to pass legislation to rectify this problem. To date, only the New York Senate has responded, while Downstate Assembly Members continue to hold up its passage in the Assembly.

At this time, I respectfully request that your office draft a Home Rule Request for Legislative approval proposing a law that enforces at least a $7.00 per visit co-pay on inmates at the Erie County Correctional Facility and Erie County Holding Center. Based on the information presented in the Comptroller's audit, I believe this is something that must be done as quickly as possible, and something each and every member of County government can support.

In the spirit of cooperation, I would also like to call on the County Executive, Sheriff, Comptroller, and other members of the Legislature to assist in this endeavor in any way possible.

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If necessary, we can form a joint task force to deal with the issue, and even lean on our colleagues in NYSAC and elsewhere.

I appreciate your anticipated cooperation, if you have any questions please feel free to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Lorigo – Majority Leader
Erie County Legislature – District 10

Cc: County Executive's Office
Hon. Mark Poloncarz
95 Franklin St. – 16th Floor
Buffalo, N.Y. 14202

Erie County Comptroller's Office
Hon. Stefan I. Mychajliw
95 Franklin St. – 11th Floor
Buffalo, N.Y. 14202

Erie County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Timothy Howard
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