

# SUSPENSION

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

### **RE: Standing in Unity with the WNY Congressional Delegation to Ensure the Viability of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program**

WHEREAS, Western New York is well known, by people both near and far, for its fierce winters, bouts of near-paralyzing snow , and cold spells during colder months, with the resulting need for home thermostats raising in order to keep families warm and safe; and

WHEREAS, Western New Yorkers are also well versed in the cost of home heating, especially struggling families trying to make ends meet, and one measure of support for families is the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), as HEAP is an essential part of a cold weather safety net primarily utilized by residents of the Northeastern parts of the United States; and

WHEREAS, there are also far too many residents affected by the fact that Buffalo has the unfortunate distinction of being listed among the poorest communities in the United States, and there are residents of suburban communities in Erie County that struggle financially, as well; and

WHEREAS, in Erie County, about one out of every four residents count on federal assistance through HEAP to help them pay their heating bills; and

WHEREAS, HEAP is a broad public program and one relied upon by 92,000 Erie County families, with a family of four earning up to \$53,000-a-year eligible for heating assistance, which essentially means a lot of people qualify for this much-needed program; and

WHEREAS, the federal assistance currently provided through HEAP allows families to save more for their other pressing needs while being able to stay warm, and keeps families afloat while attending to other bills and obligations they face on a monthly basis; and

WHEREAS, the federal funding derived to fund HEAP helps County taxpayers bear less of a burden should federal funding ultimately be drawn back, and also allows revenue from sales and property taxes, and State assistance to be allocated for other important programs and services; and

WHEREAS, it is sensible and responsible to keep intact this federal funding to keep families safe and warm, thus making concern over the proposed cuts a bipartisan issue amongst our federal representatives and for everyone to stand behind, and it is refreshing to see unity from our representatives on this important public policy matter.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body stand in unity with Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Senator Chuck Schumer, Congressman Chris Collins, Congressman Brian Higgins, and all public officials concerned about the proposed cuts to HEAP and the resulting effect they would have on Western New York families; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Western New York Delegation of the U.S. Congress, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

FISCAL IMPACT: Positive for Erie County.