

# SUSPENSION

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

**RE: Standing in Unity with the WNY Congressional Delegation to Ensure the Viability of the Meals on Wheels 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, which often keep senior citizens in their homes for months at a time; 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. This is truly a universal issue with residents of both suburban and urban communities that struggle with mobility but do not have the means nor desire to enter assisted living; and

**WHEREAS**, programs like Meals on Wheels offer nutritious meals to seniors and people who cannot shop for or prepare their own meals, this program is a lifeline for thousands of senior citizens and people with disabilities across Erie County; and

**WHEREAS**, in Erie County, the Department of Senior Services sends meals to over 3,600 senior clients at an average cost to these clients of \$2.12 per meal, without federal funding the continuation of programs like this could be in jeopardy leaving many seniors without access to proper nutrition; and

**WHEREAS**, Meals on Wheels, in association with Erie County, delivers more than 900,000 meals each year in Western New York alone. This is a vital source of nutrition for thousands of Western New York residents and needs to be protected.

**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 programs like Meal on Wheels; and be it further

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

Fiscal Impact: Positive for Erie County.