

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS LORIGO, DIXON, RATH, AND MILLS**

RE: Support for NYS Legislation to Require the State to Fully Fund the Cost of New Mandates Placed on Local Governments

WHEREAS, Erie County's budget is 90 percent state and federal mandated spending;
and

WHEREAS, the number one driver of local property taxes is spending on unfunded mandates where county officials must, by law, provide the program, and have limited control over how the programs are administered; and

WHEREAS, these mandates force local officials to levy taxes to pay for state priorities rather than fund priorities focused on their own area; and

WHEREAS, NYS Senate Bill S2323 and NYS Assembly Bill A2922 would prohibit the establishment of new programs or the expansion of existing programs mandated for municipalities and school districts, unless such programs are fully funded by the state; and

WHEREAS, the bipartisan legislation would require the state to fully fund the cost of new mandates placed on local governments or the expansion of existing mandates; and

WHEREAS, the new bill would also limit the State's ability to implement property tax exemptions or abatements that reduce local revenues; and

WHEREAS, sections of the legislation also amend general municipal law to add a new §25 specifically defining the terms "mandate", "unfunded mandate", and "net additional cost"; and

WHEREAS, the new law would also amend Education Law to add §1527 stating that no unfunded mandate shall be enacted that creates a net additional cost to any school district, and identifies circumstances under which the state would not be required to fund any mandate for a school district.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body supports the bipartisan NYS Senate Bill S2323 and NYS Assembly Bill A2922 to provide unfunded mandate relief for local municipal governments; and

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Cuomo, the Western New York delegation of the NYS Senate and Assembly, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None for this resolution