

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

Re: Opposition to the provision of free tablets to prisoners in New York State

WHEREAS, recently, New York State has been working out an agreement with a private supplier to provide computer tablets to prisoners incarcerated in New York; and

WHEREAS, the tablets would be provided to allow the inmates to download educational materials and communicate with family, with the recognition that prisoners who are distracted are less of a danger to each other and to the corrections officers assigned to maintain order; and

WHEREAS, it is a finding of this body that despite the benefits, inmates are in prison to be punished and that rehabilitation of prisoners, while a worthwhile goal, should not take precedence over other subsets of the population, especially at a time when budget cuts and funding shortfalls are expected; and

WHEREAS, it is the finding of this body that there are a myriad number of other uses the state could make of free tablets including educational purposes in inner-city schools, for tracking of patient health data in publically owned hospitals like ECMCC, for communication devices for residents of low-income nursing homes, or as mobile libraries that can increase the opportunity to read supplementing services provided by the Erie County Library system; and

WHEREAS, this honorable body fully supports the acceptance of educational technology, but at a time when the state, as a whole, is falling behind in education rankings, hospitals are desperately trying to fund needed technology upgrades and renovations, and thousands of loved ones are residents in government-run nursing homes miles away from their families there are better uses for these tablets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body hereby supports our law enforcement agencies and corrections officers and recognizes the benefit of otherwise occupied prisoners, and hereby urges the state to reconsider providing tablets to inmates in favor of alternative and more deserving recipients; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the provision of free educational materials should first be offered to organizations that are equally in need of tablet computers, but are not caretakers of individuals who have broken the law; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution are sent to Governor Cuomo, the WNY Delegation to the New York State Legislature, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None