

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS RATH & LORIGO**

Re: Requesting New York State pass legislation to allow counties to charge inmates medical copays

WHEREAS, in the past I have supported a similar policy with a resolution in 2013 urging the state to take action on an issue that costs the State and Erie County a tremendous amount of money; and

WHEREAS, this resolution called for support of a New York State Senate bill, which imposed mandatory co-pays on inmates receiving medical treatment at the Erie County Holding Center; and

WHEREAS, this year Comptroller Mychajliw released the results of an audit of Correctional Health Services and inmate medical costs at both the Erie County Correctional Facility and the Erie County Holding Center, and

WHEREAS, the audit showed that the county spent an average of \$8,000,000 on inmate health care between 2011-13; and

WHEREAS, imposition of co-payments could save the county almost \$300,000 per year according to the Comptroller's Audit if each inmate paid a \$5 co-pay per visit or prescription; and

WHEREAS, this minimal co-pay requirement would help defray the cost of incarcerating convicted criminals and simultaneously ensure inmates are not receiving benefits in excess of law abiding citizens.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body agrees with the Hon. Stefan Mychajliw and would like to pursue legislation requiring inmates make minimal medical co-payments for voluntary visits for medical treatment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this body hereby requests that members of the New York State Senate and Assembly move to pass legislation that requires inmates pay for their own medical co-payments in an effort to lessen their burden on the State of New York and the County of Erie; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution are forwarded to the Western New York Delegates for the New York State Senate and Assembly, Hon. Sheriff Howard, the County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Erie County Comptroller Stefan Mychajliw, and all other parties deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: Positive for the county