

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATOR LORIGO**

Re: Support for portions of the Safer NY Plan that seek to improve public safety for residents in Erie County

WHEREAS, the Safer NY Plan is a collection of bills in the New York State Legislature intended to strengthen New York's mental health system, support communities and schools, and provide law enforcement and local governments with additional resources to prevent targeted and other violent acts from occurring; and

WHEREAS, the package includes several efforts to prevent targeted violence including improving detection and mental health supports in our schools. The package proposes investing in a state-funded school resource officer in every school building and expanding access to mental health services in our schools; and

WHEREAS, the package further seeks to reinvest in the overall mental health system by increasing the availability of mental health treatment options by increasing support for inpatient and outpatient treatment through legislation (S.8508 and S.8856) and by funding both juvenile and adult mental health beds; appropriately funding our mental health system by increasing state funding with a focus on services for children and young people; advocating for federal action to increase mental health treatment options-specifically eliminating the Medicaid IMB exclusion; stopping any further reduction of mental health beds at state hospitals; and opening 24/7 Crisis Stabilization Centers throughout New York by supporting local efforts to establish centers and/or opening state operated centers; and

WHEREAS, the Safer NY Plan further seeks to deter and combat violent crime by curtailing gun crimes, making any misdemeanor or felony offense involving the use or possession of a firearm, shotgun, or rifle bail eligible (S.7300); amending Raise the Age to allow sixteen and seventeen year old defendants who threaten or engage in violence in schools to be prosecuted as adults in criminal court; creating the SAFER Communities Grant Program to provide funding to local law enforcement to invest in critical investigatory and prosecutorial resources to increase case clearance rates for homicides and gun crimes; and

WHEREAS, the plan also supports an integrated community-wide approach to ending targeted violence through the creation of county-wide targeted violence prevention task forces that integrate social services, mental and behavioral health, law enforcement, school districts, higher education, human rights, non-profit organizations, non-profits, faith communities, and local government leaders/personnel to focus on preventing and managing targeted violence threats; supporting integration of behavioral and mental health services into 911 call centers; providing targeted Violence Threat Assessment training to Law Enforcement, First Responders, School Officials, Social Services and Mental Health Providers, 911 Call Center Staff, College/University Staff, and others; and Supporting Local Efforts Through State Coordination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body hereby acknowledges the need to improve targeted violence detection and mental health supports, improve our statewide mental health services offerings, and better deter the most violent crimes that occur in our community; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that in an attempt to make our community safer for all residents, this honorable body hereby supports the above listed pieces of legislation and encourages the New York State Senate and Assembly to work to pass them into law; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Western New York Delegation to the New York State Senate and Assembly, Governor Hochul's office, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None for resolution