

**Calling On The Ulster County Senate And Assembly Delegation To Support The State Takeover Of The Safety Net Program Thereby Relieving Ulster County Property Taxpayers Of This Unfunded State Mandate**

Referred to: The Public Health and Social Services Committee (Chairman Lopez and Legislators Allen, Belfiglio, Litts, and Provenzano), and The Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Gerentine and Legislators Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio and Maloney, Provenzano, and Rodriguez)

Legislator Jeanette Provenzano and Legislators Allen, Archer, Gerentine, Gregorius, Lopez, Loughran, Maloney, Rodriguez, Ronk and Wishnick offer the following:

WHEREAS, the Safety Net program is a State program not required or funded by the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS, the Safety Net program provides welfare benefits to able-bodied single adults and others that are not eligible for the Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program; and

WHEREAS, New York State, unlike other States in the nation with identical or similar programs, requires that most of the cost associated with the Safety Net Assistance Program be funded through a local share creating a substantial unfunded State mandate; and

WHEREAS, as of January 1, 2011, the State of New York dramatically lowered the State's fiscal responsibility for the Safety Net program by shifting the cost to 71% local and 29% State; and

WHEREAS, a recent analysis completed by the New York State Association of Counties indicates that the savings projected by State policy makers that the 71%, 29% funding shift, in conjunction with fully federalizing New York's TANF program, would generate up to \$50 million annually in net cost reductions at the local level did not materialize; and

WHEREAS, the local share of the Safety Net program in Ulster County is currently over \$8 million annually, which represents a substantial burden on local property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the steady pullback of State funding to support a number of human services programs like the Safety Net program results in the State shifting its constitutional responsibility away from progressive broad based taxes onto regressive local property taxes; now, therefore be it

**Resolution No. 82      March 18, 2014**

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RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature calls for our Senate and Assembly delegation to advocate for the State takeover of the Safety Net program, relieving Ulster County property taxpayers from this substantial unfunded State mandate; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall send certified copies of this Resolution to New York State Senators John Bonacic, William Larkin, James Seward, and Cecilia Tkaczyk, and New York State Assembly Members Kevin Cahill, Peter Lopez, Frank Skartados and Claudia Tenney; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall send a certified copy of this resolution to each Town Clerk in Ulster County and to the Mayor and Clerk of the City of Kingston for their memorialization,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21      NOES: 0  
(Legislators Gregorius and Ronk exited Chambers  
at 9:01 PM and returned at 9:04 PM)

Passed Committee: Public Health and Social Services on March 10, 2014

Passed Committee: Ways and Means on March 12, 2014

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

\$5,818,645.00 – SAVINGS TO COUNTY, TOWNS AND CITY OF KINGSTON

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STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 18<sup>th</sup> Day of March, 2014, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 20<sup>th</sup> Day of March in the year Two Thousand and Fourteen.

/s/ Victoria A. Fabella  
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature