

Memorializing Resolution To The Governor And The NYS Legislature To Hold Counties Harmless In Medicaid Conversions

The Mental Health / Public Health / Residential Services Committee (Chairmen Busick and Roberti and Legislators Alfonso, McAfee, Provenzano, Robert Parete and Stoeckeler) and Aiello, Cummings, DePew, Every, Felicello, Gerentine, Harris, Hathaway, Maloney, Meyer, Noonan, Stock and Tipp offer the following:

WHEREAS, the NYS Office of Mental Health has a long history of converting 100% State Aid to Medicaid reimbursements, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of these “Medicaid conversions” is to supplant State Aid with Federal dollars, thereby saving New York State government money, and

WHEREAS, the NYS Office of Mental Health has traditionally held counties harmless in Medicaid conversions by guaranteeing that there would be no increase in local share as a result of a conversion, and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the NYS Office of Mental Health recently revealed that counties would not be held harmless for increases in their Medicaid reimbursements in relation to a recent conversion of State dollars to Medicaid for case management services, and

WHEREAS, this information was not forthcoming from the NYS Office of Mental health when the conversion was originally announced, and

WHEREAS, such conversions with an increase in county share are devastating to local budgets and could discourage local support for such programs, and

WHEREAS, the Mental Health/Public Health/Residential Services Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval.

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature hereby memorializes the Governor and the NYS Legislature to guarantee that counties will be held harmless in all Medicaid conversions, both in terms of immediate and long-term financial impact,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 32 NOES: 0
(Legislator Tipp left at 7:17 P.M.)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE