

Inter-County Association of Western New York

Representing the Counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-02-IC

RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL AND THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO ALLEVIATE TAXPAYERS OF THE UNFAIR FINANCIAL BURDEN PLACED UPON THEM BY THE LOCAL SHARE OF MEDICAID COSTS

Motion By: Brooke Harris (*Allegany*)

Seconded by: Gary Barnes (*Allegany*)

WHEREAS, when created by the Federal Government in 1966, this health insurance program for the poor and disabled was intended to be fully funded by the Federal and State governments, and

WHEREAS, New York State acted inappropriately in 1966 when it opted to force local governments to pay half of the State's Medicaid costs, and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Governor and legislative leaders recognized the fiscal burden placed upon local taxpayers and initiated steps to limit the growth in local costs for Medicaid, and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Governor Cuomo established a zero percent Medicaid growth cap, and

WHEREAS, despite these efforts, local costs of Medicaid funding paid in New York State continues to be greater than local costs paid in all other states combined, and

WHEREAS, the cost of Allegany County's local Medicaid share in 2021 was \$8,418,951 and represented 28.39 percent of the County's overall tax levy (2021 Tax Levy was \$29,654,597), and 8.6 percent of the County's budgeted general expenses (2021 Budgeted General Expenses was \$97,604,742, and

WHEREAS, that amount is excessive and places an unfair burden upon local taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, the local share is regressive, in that counties with a greater proportion of poor and disabled residents bear a greater financial burden to cover the program's costs, and

WHEREAS, counties do not have the tools nor the authority to control the most significant contributors to the program's growth or inefficiencies, including:

- The ability to audit the Medicaid program
- The ability to control the cost of prescription drugs
- The ability to set provider reimbursement rates
- The ability to modify eligibility and benefit levels for Medicaid recipients
- The ability to control changing demographics across the state
- The ability to control provider contracts, and

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WHEREAS, previous suggestions to alleviate the local share include:

- Taking county governments' federal enhanced Medicaid match savings
- Diverting local sales tax revenues to pay local share
- Eliminating the STAR Exemption, and

WHEREAS, those methods would do nothing to alleviate the burden placed upon local taxpayers, they simply would shift costs, and would continue to strain local governments, and

WHEREAS, The Inter-County Association of Western New York is committed to reducing the excessive property taxes whenever possible and is committed to advocating for the Counties taxpayers, now, therefore, be it

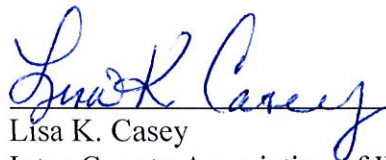
RESOLVED:

1. That the Inter-County Association of Western New York urges Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature to alleviate taxpayers of the unfair burden placed upon them by the Medicaid local share, either through legislation, sound budgeting, greater efficiencies in the program's administration, or any combination thereof.

2. That the Clerk of the Genesee County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senate Minority Leader Rob Ortt, Assembly Majority Leader Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes, Assembly Minority Leader William Barclay, Senator George M. Borrello, Assemblyman Joseph Giglio, and the Inter-County Association of Western New York.

This is to Certify that I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Inter-County Association of Western New York, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office and which was duly adopted by the Association at a session held on the 18th day of February 2022 and that the same is a true copy of said original and of the whole thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the official seal of the Inter-County Association of Western New York dated February 18, 2022.



Lisa K. Casey

Inter-County Association of Western New York



Sponsored by: Allegany County, Motioned by: B. Harris Seconded by: G. Barnes

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