

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 730 OF 2022

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY SUPERVISORS SEEBER, HOGAN, BRAYMER, LEGGETT AND DRISCOLL

RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE TO INCREASE COUNTY REIMBURSEMENT FOR EARLY INTERVENTION TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

WHEREAS, counties are responsible for ensuring that services developed in Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) are delivered to children in the Early Intervention Program (EIP), respectively, including transportation to these services, as needed, and

WHEREAS, counties either contract with third-party transportation vendors or reimburse parents at the standard IRS mileage rate to transport children in the EIP to and from necessary services, and

WHEREAS, counties are fiscally responsible for the costs of transportation to and from Early Intervention (EI) services for non-Medicaid eligible children beyond the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) reimbursement rate at 49 percent of cost, and

WHEREAS, under State Plan Amendment 18-0029, as of Fall 2022, EI reimbursement methodology will be switching to a fee-for-service model with a set EI Transportation Rate, and

WHEREAS, after this switch, the NYSDOH will only reimburse county EI transportation costs at 49 percent of the set rate, rather than at 49 percent of actual transportation costs paid out of County escrow, and

WHEREAS, this change is expected to increase costs to counties and local taxpayers for EI transportation services, while reducing the State's costs for EI transportation, and

WHEREAS, many counties expect this change to increase their upfront transportation costs paid out of the County escrow and reduce the State reimbursement share for EI transportation services, and

WHEREAS, transportation to and from EI services consume a large and growing percentage of local public health budgets, with average total, annual transportation costs per county of \$92,932, for EI from the previous fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, across counties the average total, annual transportation costs per child were \$4,013 in the EIP in Fiscal Year 2021, a 16 percent increase from the previous fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, many counties, particularly in rural areas of the state, only have one, third-party transportation vendor available to provide transportation services, allowing these transportation providers a monopoly to increase their rates, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors calls on the Governor and the New York State Legislature to increase the State reimbursement rate for EI transportation services, and be it further

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RESOLVED, that the NYSDOH continue to reimburse counties based on actual, incurred transportation costs, rather than at a pre-set rate that does not accurately reflect true costs of EI transportation services, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall forward copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of New York, the New York State Legislature and all other deemed necessary and proper.