

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 731 OF 2022

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

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FULLY FUNDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2019 ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVEL MANDATE

WHEREAS, lead poisoning prevention activities are delivered by local health departments, and

WHEREAS, when the definition of elevated blood lead level (EBLL) was lowered from 10 to 5 ug/dL or greater, the State only allocated an additional \$9.7 million dollars for Article 6 state aid, and

WHEREAS, this investment falls short of the \$40 million dollars needed to implement this work and protect children, thereby placing the majority of the cost burden (\$30.3 million dollars) on the local tax levy, and

WHEREAS, this estimated need is based on an average cost per case of nurse case management of \$713 and an average cost of \$2,123 per case for environmental management activities, and

WHEREAS, at the January 29, 2020, Lead Poisoning Prevention Advisory Council meeting, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) presented data on the first quarter of implementation that showed an additional 1,725 children between the ranges of 5-9 ug/dL required interventions, and

WHEREAS, while this highlights the importance of lowering the EBLL, it also represents the equivalent to 2.5 years of work occurring in a single quarter when compared to prior years, and

WHEREAS, counties recognize the extraordinary impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on children and families at risk for lead exposure due to stay-at-home orders, remote learning, and barriers to attending pediatric appointments and access testing for lead screening, and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) further lowered the recommendation to 3.5 ug/dL, which, if adopted by New York State, would cost an additional \$30 million dollars to implement locally, and

WHEREAS, new and expanded duties place on local health departments, as well as existing duties that are underfunded, may result in increased civil liability for our county governments, and

WHEREAS, county governments will allocate existing and new investments to support the lower EBLL through this program to secure and maintain the necessary staffing other resources required to accomplish the goals set forth by the state mandate, while also ensuring that New York State keeps its promise to property taxpayers through its enactment of a permanent property tax cap, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors calls on Governor Kathy Hochul and the State Legislature to increase the appropriation for NYSDOH's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to fully cover the cost of the current expanded mandate and any future policy changes, and be it further

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RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors calls on Governor Kathy Hochul and the State Legislature to distribute all funding necessary to local health departments through existing grant mechanisms to implement the expanded mandate, 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, New York State Department of Health Commissioner Mary Bassett, and all others deemed necessary and proper.