

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 143 OF 2020

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY SUPERVISORS STROUGH, BRAYMER, CONOVER, BEATY, DIAMOND, DRISCOLL, LEGGETT, MERLINO AND SIMPSON

RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GOVERNOR AND NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO PRESERVE THE ZERO PERCENT MEDICAID GROWTH CAP FOR ALL COUNTIES AND NEW YORK CITY

WHEREAS, spending in New York State for Medicaid is the single largest expense in the State Budget, and

WHEREAS, the funding to support the Medicaid program is provided by a combination of Federal, State and Local resources, and

WHEREAS, the required County and New York City contribution is \$7.6 billion annually, and

WHEREAS, the local share of Medicaid funding paid in New York is the highest of any State in the Country and is more than what 43 individual States pay in State share for their Medicaid programs, and

WHEREAS, this large local funding share for Medicaid and other State programs is a major contributor to New York's high local tax burden compared to other States, and

WHEREAS, the Governor and legislative leaders recognize the fiscal burden the financing of Medicaid is for local taxpayers and initiated steps to relieve part of that burden by capping the growth in local costs in this program, and

WHEREAS, one of the most prominent property tax reduction and mandate relieve initiatives in State history was Governor Cuomo's establishment of the zero percent Medicaid growth cap, and

WHEREAS, this zero percent growth cap enables counties to keep funding for the growing cost of many vital State programs and services, while continuing local quality of life services demanded by taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid budget is facing billions of dollars in annual deficits over the next several years, and

WHEREAS, these Medicaid deficits are contributing to the largest budget deficit the State has faced since the Great Recession, and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Executive Budget Recommendation is proposing a variety of ways to address these combined fiscal shortfalls, and

WHEREAS, budget proposals advanced by the Governor rely on \$150 million in Medicaid program costs assumed by local taxpayers, and include:

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- using county government federal enhanced medicaid match savings;
- losing state Medicaid growth cap if counties breach the State property tax cap;
- shifting the local share of Medicaid growth above 3% to counties, if counties cannot contain costs under 3%, and

WHEREAS, counties do not have tools to control the Medicaid program growth; some of these limitations include:

- 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

WHEREAS, if State experts in the Medicaid program are unable to develop solutions to control growth in the Medicaid program, it will be difficult for counties to do so, since they do not have this authority to control costs, and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Budget proposal will increase Warren County's \$11.8 million Medicaid program by as much as \$1,672,250 per year, every dollar of which would become the responsibility of local property taxpayers, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors hereby urges the Governor and legislative leaders to maintain the zero percent Medicaid growth cap for counties and New York City as they address State budget shortfalls in order to keep downward pressure on the local tax burden, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisor is authorized and directed to forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senator Elizabeth O'C. Little, Assemblyman Daniel Stec, the New York State Association of Counties and the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks.