

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

## RESOLUTION NO. 195 OF 2020

### RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY SUPERVISORS DRISCOLL AND MAGOWAN

#### **ENDORING GLENS FALLS HOSPITAL'S ONGOING EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FEDERAL AND STATE REIMBURSEMENT TO OFFSET THE COSTS IT HAS BORNE IN CONNECTION WITH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND IMPLORING FEDERAL AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES TO USE THEIR BEST EFFORTS TO SECURE SUCH FUNDING TO REIMBURSE GLENS FALLS HOSPITAL**

WHEREAS, Glens Falls Hospital, a non-profit community institution, provides essential health care services for Warren County and four other surrounding counties, and

WHEREAS, Glens Falls Hospital is the largest employer in Warren, Washington, Hamilton and Essex Counties, and

WHEREAS, Glens Falls Hospital has been experiencing major financial challenges due to insufficient Federal and State reimbursement programs and declines in patient volume, and

WHEREAS, Glens Falls Hospital is vitally important to the health of thousands of full-time residents and the many thousands of people who visit Queensbury, Lake George and the North Country throughout the year, and

WHEREAS, Glens Falls Hospital has led a coordinated regional response to the COVID-19 pandemic, treating 40 COVID-positive patients and setting up and administering community testing sites at the hospital and at the Warren County Municipal Center at which hundreds people were tested, reactivating closed hospital units to accept an expected surge of patients, converting anesthesia machines to ventilators, building a UVC sterilization room to sterilize N95 masks, putting 3-D printers to work making face shields, acquiring new laboratory equipment to allow rapid testing for COVID-19, providing constant community information and education about the pandemic, and investing more than \$5 million in these efforts, and

WHEREAS, Glens Falls Hospital also set up telemedicine services to serve non-COVID patients who were not permitted to visit the hospital or outpatient offices and facilities because of COVID-19 restrictions and quickly began conducting 1,200 telemedicine visits a week, and

WHEREAS, Glens Falls Hospital was forced to bear a revenue loss of approximately \$27 million because of the State ban on elective procedures, only recently lifted, while also bearing the actual expense of preparing for the expected surge in COVID-19 patients after having already sustained operating losses in the first quarter of 2020 totaling nearly \$11 million and, as a result, was forced to furlough more than 360 employees, and

WHEREAS, Glens Falls Hospital thus far has received only \$6 million in Federal funding related to COVID-19, and

WHEREAS, Glens Falls Hospital is an indispensable institution that is vitally important to the health, wellbeing, economy and future of Warren County, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of its residents, visitors and taxpayers expresses support and sincere appreciation to Glens Falls Hospital, its physicians and nurses and staff of dedicated employees, many of whom reside within Warren County, and be it further

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RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors hereby endorses Glens Falls Hospital's ongoing efforts to obtain Federal and State reimbursement to offset the costs it has borne in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic and hereby implores Federal and State representatives to use their best efforts to secure such funding to reimburse Glens Falls Hospital, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Congress Member Elise Stefanik, Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Senator Elizabeth O'C. Little, Assemblyman Daniel G. Stec and the Administration and Board of Governors of Glens Falls Hospital.