



Board of Legislators

County Office Building, Room 201
7 Court Street
Belmont, New York 14813
Phone: 585-268-9222

Press Release
February 9, 2023

For Release: Immediately
Confirmation: W. Brooke Harris, Chairman
Office Phone: 585-268-9222

Allegany County Legislature Condemns Medicaid Funding Takeback

Loss of funding to cost local taxpayers over \$1 million

The Allegany County Legislature passed a resolution on February 8 in opposition to a proposal within Governor Hochul's State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024 Executive Budget.

The Resolution addresses Hochul's plan to withhold federal Medicaid funding from counties. The Enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (eFMAP) was created in 2010 as part of the Affordable Care Act. Its intent was to assist county governments with the burdensome local share of Medicaid costs.

Board Chairman W. Brooke Harris emphasized the significance of the hardship on taxpayers. "In the last five years, this is probably the single most fiscally damaging executive budget item for our county taxpayers. By various estimates, the cost to (Allegany County) taxpayers is going to be between \$1.2 and \$1.5 million dollars annually.

"It's not the State's money," Harris said. "We get accustomed to the state withholding its own money, but we get particularly frustrated when the State withholds federal money that was, by all accounts, fully intended to be shared with the counties to support the local share of Medicaid costs."

The New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) estimates the statewide cost to local taxpayers to exceed \$1 billion. In a statement addressing the Governor's Executive Budget, NYSAC President Michael E. Zurlo stated, "At a time when New York is facing an affordability crisis, the last thing the Governor should do is burden local taxpayers with more costs that will drive up the cost of homeownership and rent, increase business expenses, and make New York more unaffordable."

"Not only does this proposal harm New York's local taxpayers," he continued, "but it also subverts Congress' intent that eFMAP be shared with local governments that contribute to the Medicaid program."

Allegany County Legislator Janice Burdick (District V, Alfred), urged taxpayers to contact their State representatives. “This is a very important resolution,” Burdick stated. “I encourage anyone listening and all our residents to contact their (elected officials) and ask them for any help getting this passed.”

The SFY 2024 Executive Budget is currently in the “30-Day Amendments” phase, during which the Governor may make unrestricted changes to the Executive Budget. After that time, any alterations require approval of the State Legislature.

Harris explained the importance of quick action in opposition to the proposal. “Now is the time to correct this proposal. We urge the Governor to amend the budget and continue remitting eFMAP funding to counties in 2024. If she’s unwilling, we urge the State Legislature to serve their constituents well and protect the interests of local taxpayers.”

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RESOLUTION URGING THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO AMEND GOVERNOR HOCHUL'S SFY 2024 EXECUTIVE BUDGET TO CONTINUE REMITTANCE OF THE ENHANCED FEDERAL MEDICAID MATCHING PERCENTAGE (eFMAP) TO ALLEGANY COUNTY

Offered by: Ways & Means Committee

WHEREAS, the funding to support the Medicaid program is provided by a combination of federal, state, and local resources, and

WHEREAS, New York State requires that its 57 counties and New York City contribute \$6.474 billion annually to pay for this federal and state-defined and controlled program, and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Allegany County contributed \$8,636,551 in local dollars toward the implementation of the Medicaid program, and

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

WHEREAS, the Federal government has provided an enhanced Medicaid matching share (eFMAP), which has saved New York State billions of dollars, and

WHEREAS, New York State is required under federal law to share these savings with its 57 counties and New York City since 2015–2016, resulting in at least \$1,411,861 in eFMAP funds currently owed to Allegany County, and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul's SFY 2024 Budget proposes to end the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (eFMAP) federal pass-through to its 57 counties and New York City, and

WHEREAS, it continues to be the strong position of both Allegany County and the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) that Congress intended for these federal savings to be shared with the counties proportional to the amount they contributed toward the non-federal Medicaid match, and

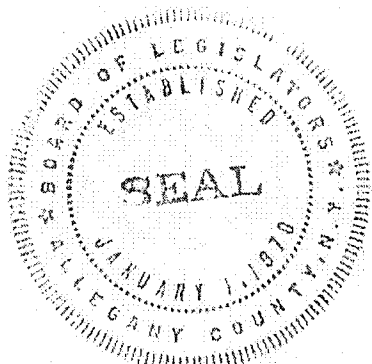
WHEREAS, Allegany County estimates that the elimination of the pass-through of the ACA eFMAP funds by New York State would have a negative fiscal impact of \$918,254, which would create an undue and excessive hardship for Allegany County taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, Allegany County anticipates the elimination of COVID-related eFMAP funding in August 2023, resulting in a total loss of \$964,116 annually, and

WHEREAS, NYSAC estimates that the statewide impact on the 57 counties and New York City would exceed \$1 billion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED:

1. That the Allegany County Board of Legislators urges the New York State Legislature to amend Governor Hochul's SFY 2024 Budget to continue remittance of the Enhanced Federal Medicaid Matching Percentage (eFMAP) to Allegany County.
2. That the Allegany County Board of Legislators urges New York State to complete Enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (eFMAP) reconciliations that are seven years overdue, and immediately release the federal funds owed to Allegany County.
3. That the Clerk of the Allegany County Board of Legislators shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senate Minority Leader Robert G. Ort, Assembly Majority Leader Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes, Assembly Minority Leader William A. Barclay, Senator George M. Borrello, Senator Thomas F. O'Mara, Assemblyman Joseph M. Giglio, the New York State Association of Counties, and the Inter-County Association of Western New York.



I, Brenda Rigby Riehle, Clerk of the Board of Legislators of the County of Allegany, State of New York, do hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a correct copy of the original on file in my office and the whole thereof of a resolution passed by said Board on the 8th day of February 2023.

Brenda Rigby Riehle
Clerk, Board of Legislators, Allegany County

Dated at Belmont, New York, this 9th day of February 20 23

Moved by: Stockin Seconded by: Root VOTE: Ayes: 13 Noes: 0 Absent: 2 Voice:

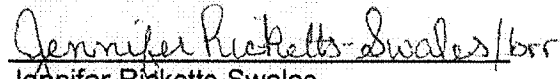
Absent: Ricketts-Swales, Rumfelt

We, the undersigned members of the Allegany County Board of Legislators, are united in opposition to Governor Hochul's SFY 2024 Executive Budget Proposal, which seeks to retain the Enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (eFMAP) at the State level. If passed, this measure would increase the local share of Medicaid costs by \$1,270,213 in the next fiscal year. We consider this to be an excessive burden on local taxpayers. Further, we consider any mandated local share of costs associated with the administration of Medicaid to be an unfair and regressive tax on an already impoverished and over-taxed county. We urge the Governor to embrace any amendment to the SFY 2024 Executive Budget that would return eFMAP funding to its rightful recipients: The Counties of New York State.

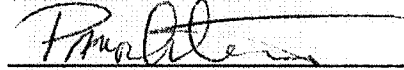
DISTRICT I LEGISLATORS:



Kevin (Fred) Demick, Vice Chairman

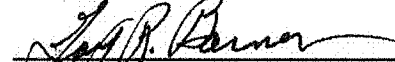


Jennifer Ricketts-Swales



Philip G. Stockin

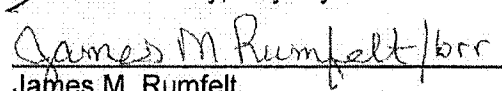
DISTRICT IV LEGISLATORS:



Gary R. Barnes

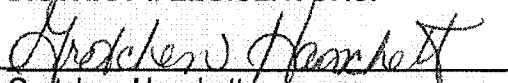


Steven A. Havey, Majority Leader

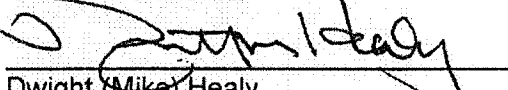


James M. Rumpfelt

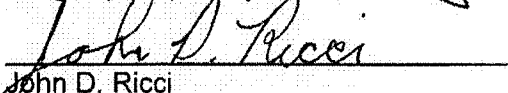
DISTRICT II LEGISLATORS:



Gretchen Hanchett

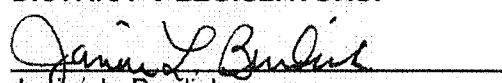


Dwight (Mike) Healy

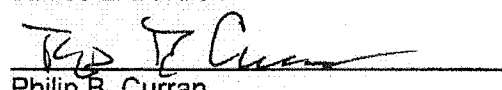


John D. Ricci

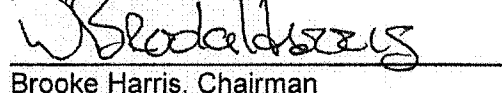
DISTRICT V LEGISLATORS:



Janice L. Burdick



Philip B. Curran

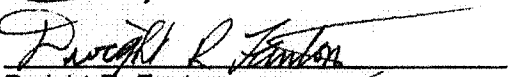


Brooke Harris, Chairman

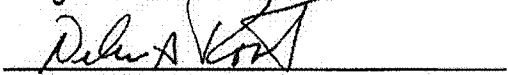
DISTRICT III LEGISLATORS:



Adam B. Cyr



Dwight R. Fanten



Debra A. Root

