

RESOLUTION NO. 393-10 INTRODUCED BY JONATHAN F. ROUIS, CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATURE, ELWIN "WOODY" WOOD, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATURE, DAVID A. SAGER, LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 1, KATHLEEN LABUDA, MAJORITY LEADER, LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 2, FRANK ARMSTRONG, LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 5, JODI I. GOODMAN, LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 6, LENI C. BINDER, MINORITY LEADER, LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 7, RON G. HIATT, LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 8, AND ALAN J. SORENSEN, LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 9 URGING THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO ELIMINATE THE UNFUNDED MANDATES AND REDUCE THE UNDERFUNDED MANDATES THAT CAUSE COUNTY PROPERTY TAX INCREASES IN CONJUNCTION WITH IMPOSING A CAP ON COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES

WHEREAS, Governor David Paterson and many State Legislators are supportive of a cap on Local and County property tax levies of 4%, or 120% of inflation, whichever is less; and

WHEREAS, little or no action has been taken by the State of New York to decrease or control the costs of unfunded State mandates, which have been driving County property tax levels for decades; and

WHEREAS, without mandate reform, such a cap would be disingenuous because State mandates make up as much as 75 to 85 percent of a County budget, and these State costs increase substantially each year, well over the proposed 4% cap. Some examples:

- County payments to the NYS Retirement System are expected to rise 10% in 2011.
- The local cost of Medicaid rises 3% each year, and Sullivan County will send \$20 million of local tax money to Albany in 2011.
- The State continues to shift its costs to Counties in the 2009-10 and 2010-11 State budgets.
- New York State currently owes Sullivan County about \$15 million, overdue for State services rendered by Sullivan County.
- During the 2010 legislative session, the State shifted over \$100 million in costs to Counties for delivering state services locally in child welfare and youth detention programs, representing yet another unfunded mandate.
- The State of New York has cut aid to Public Nursing Homes.
- The Mental Hygiene mandates require more than \$2 million of property tax revenues annually in Sullivan County.
- Health Insurance premiums through NYSHIP will grow by more than 13% in 2011, requiring an additional \$1 million from Sullivan County's property tax levy, or more than a 2% increase.

WHEREAS, Counties are mandated by the State to use County tax dollars to pay for State programs such as Medicaid, mental hygiene, early intervention services, pre-school special education services, public assistance, child welfare, youth detention, jails, and numerous other programs; and

WHEREAS, the property tax cap proposal does nothing to reduce or eliminate the current mandates; and

WHEREAS, the property tax cap proposal allows County boards to override the cap with a two-thirds majority vote, thereby not only shifting costs to County governments, but also unfairly shifting blame to County leaders for property tax increases that are actually caused by the State Government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sullivan County Legislature urges the State not to impose a Local or County property tax cap, unless it is coupled with the elimination of the unfunded and underfunded State mandated programs that directly cause County property tax increases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature shall transmit copies of this resolution to Governor David Paterson, Senate Democratic Leader John Sampson, Senate Republican Leader Dean Skelos, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Republican Leader Brian Kolb, State Senator John J. Bonacic, 42nd Senatorial District, Assemblywoman Aileen M. Gunther, 98th Assembly District, all New York State County Governing Bodies, all Sullivan County Towns and Villages, and the New York State Association of Counties.

Moved by Mr. Sager, seconded by Mrs. Binder, put to a vote with Mrs. Goodman, Mr. Hiatt and Mr. Sorensen absent, unanimously carried and **declared duly adopted on motion** August 5, 2010.

STATE OF NEW YORK)

§:
COUNTY OF SULLIVAN)

I, ANNMARIE MARTIN, Clerk to the Legislature of the County of Sullivan, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of a resolution with the original thereof now on file in my office and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Legislature this 5th day of August 2010.



CLERK TO THE SULLIVAN COUNTY LEGISLATURE

RESOLUTION NO. 394-10 INTRODUCED BY JONATHAN F. ROUIS, CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATURE, ELWIN "WOODY" WOOD, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATURE, DAVID A. SAGER, LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 1, KATHLEEN LABUDA, MAJORITY LEADER, LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 2, FRANK ARMSTRONG, LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 5, JODI I. GOODMAN, LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 6, LENI C. BINDER, MINORITY LEADER, LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 7, RON G. HIATT, LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 8, AND ALAN J. SORENSEN, LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 9 URGING THE STATE OF NEW YORK TAKE OVER STATE MANDATED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT ARE FUNDED BY COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES

WHEREAS, the State of New York mandates County governments to provide programs and services on behalf of the State government, without funding for those mandated programs and services; and

WHEREAS, State mandates make up as much as 75 to 85 percent of a County budget, and these State costs increase substantially each year; and

WHEREAS, Counties are mandated by the State to use County tax dollars to pay for State programs such as Medicaid, mental hygiene, early intervention services, pre-school special education services, public assistance, child welfare, youth detention, jails, and numerous other programs; and

WHEREAS, the County property tax levy is driven by unfunded and underfunded State mandates; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York should take over the programs and services associated with the unfunded State mandates, and the financial responsibility for those State mandated programs and services shall be the financial responsibility of the State of New York, with zero County tax dollars paying for those State program and services; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York remains one of only two States in the country that requires Counties to pay for a portion of Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, the federal government only funds 50% of the New York Medicaid expenses, while about 31 other States and the District of Columbia are supported by a larger percentage of expenses that are funded by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive reform of Medicaid benefit levels must be addressed by the State government, as it is reported that the State of New York spends more per Medicaid recipient than the States of California and Texas combined ; and

WHEREAS, true property tax relief will only be realized by the elimination of unfunded and underfunded State mandates that actually cause property tax increases.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sullivan County Legislature urges the State of New York to take over State mandated programs and services that are funded by County property taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the State of New York is urged to undertake comprehensive Medicaid reform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature shall transmit copies of this resolution to Governor David Paterson, Senate Democratic Leader John Sampson, Senate Republican Leader Dean Skelos, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Republican Leader Brian Kolb, State Senator John J. Bonacic, 42nd Senatorial District, Assemblywoman Aileen M. Gunther, 98th Assembly District, all New York State County Governing Bodies, all Sullivan County Towns and Villages, and the New York State Association of Counties.

Moved by Mrs. Binder, **seconded by** Mr. Sager, put to a vote with, Mr. Hiatt and Mr. Sorensen absent, unanimously carried and **declared duly adopted on motion** August 5, 2010.

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WITNESS my hand and seal of said Legislature this 5th day of August 2010.



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