

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 568 OF 2011

Resolution introduced by Supervisors Thomas, Taylor, Goodspeed, Belden, Monroe, VanNess, Kenny, Merlino and Conover

URGING MULTI-YEAR TAKEOVER OF LOCAL SHARE OF MEDICAID

WHEREAS, county officials across the state are presently introducing their 2012 budgets, and

WHEREAS, these budget decisions are being made under the constraints of the State's new property tax cap, and

WHEREAS, when State lawmakers enacted a property tax cap, they pledged to provide mandate relief that would enable and empower local leaders to implement that tax cap locally, and

WHEREAS, that mandate relief has not materialized, and

WHEREAS, by far, at a local statewide cost of \$7.3 billion, Medicaid is the number one mandate facing counties, and

WHEREAS, State Legislation (S.5889-B) will require state policymakers to take full fiscal responsibility for New York's largest in the nation Medicaid program, by implementing an eight (8) year gradual State takeover of county Medicaid costs, and

WHEREAS, removing county taxpayers from the financing of Medicaid is the single most important thing the State Legislature can do to lower property taxes for New Yorkers, and

WHEREAS, the State takeover of county Medicaid costs will lead to lower property taxes and enhance New York's economic competitiveness and improve economic opportunities for all New Yorkers, and

WHEREAS, state lawmakers can fund the takeover with a combination of Medicaid program reforms, state-derived savings and other spending controls, including, applying Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) reform savings to mandate relief and pursuing a federal Medicaid waiver to leverage state cost

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containment initiatives that can be applied to property tax relief and applying future revenues to lowering property taxes and by allowing federal health care reforms to cover New Yorkers, and

WHEREAS, the Warren County Board of Supervisors has been informed that Governor Cuomo does not support State Legislation (S.5889-B), now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors calls on State lawmakers to keep their promise, and sign on to Legislation (S.5889-B) designed to provide mandate relief for counties, in the form of an eight-year State takeover of county Medicaid costs, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors calls on Governor Cuomo to reconsider his decision and thereby support Senate Bill No. S.5889-B, which will remove the burden of the cost of Medicaid on New York State property taxes and to reduce the eligibility requirements from 400% of the poverty level to 200% as all other states have, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Cuomo, Senator Elizabeth O’C. Little, Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, New York State Association of Counties, and the New York State Legislature.