

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 104 OF 2013

Resolution introduced by Supervisors Monroe, Bentley, Montesi, Girard, Sokol, Wood and Frasier

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REPEAL A PORTION OF THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND SURCHARGE THAT PROVIDES FREE CELLULAR TELEPHONE SERVICE TO “INCOME ELIGIBLE” INDIVIDUALS

WHEREAS, Federal Laws are in place that authorize the Federal Communication Commission to administer a “Universal Service Fund”, which is funded through the collection of “Universal Connectivity Charge” surcharges on telephone bills, and

WHEREAS, through collection of this surcharge, telecommunications companies are subsidized to provide taxpayer-funded cellular telephone services to individuals deemed “income eligible”. “Income eligible” qualifications are incomes up to 135% of the federal poverty level; including those who receive Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance, Supplemental Security Income, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or National School Free Lunch Program, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that annual expenditures on Universal Service Fund programs have increased 86% during the last decade, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors hereby urges Congressional representatives to introduce legislation to repeal the portion of the Universal Service Fund authorizing statutes that require provision of free cellular service to individuals through federal subsidies, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to forward copies of this resolution to the New York State Association of Counties; Governor Andrew M. Cuomo; Senator Charles E. Schumer; Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand; Congressman Christopher Owens; Senator Elizabeth O’C. Little; and Assemblyman Daniel G. Stec.