

## RESOLUTION NO. 117

### URGING THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO REJECT THE PROPOSED SHIFT OF 100 PERCENT OF THE COST OF JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES TO COUNTIES

Introduced: 3/10/08

By Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Aylward, Beston, Bullock, Ms. Chapman, Messrs. Clay, Clenahan, Commisso, Ms. Connolly, Messrs. Cotrofeld, Dawson, Domalewicz, Ethier, Gordon, Higgins, Horstmyer, Houghtaling, Infante, Joyce, Ms. Maffia-Tobler, Messrs. Mayo, McCoy, Morse, Nichols, Rahm, Reilly, Scavo, Steck, Timmins, Ward, Mss. Willingham, Benedict, Messrs. Carman, Clouse, Hoblock, Ms. Lockart, Messrs. Mendick, Tunny and Zeilman:

WHEREAS, The 2008-09 State Executive Budget contains a proposal to end the State/local partnership splitting half of the expenses associated with operating local juvenile detention facilities and instead shift the full cost to counties effective April 1, 2008, and

WHEREAS, The Commissioner of the County Department of Management and Budget estimates the proposal would cost Albany County an additional \$1.25 million for the nine-month period from April through December this year and \$1.5 million for the full 2009 calendar year, and

WHEREAS, The Commissioner indicated that the County may be forced to decrease prevention programs in the Department for Children, Youth and Families this year to offset the unexpected additional costs and that the County's only option in 2009 will be to raise property taxes to cover the additional cost, and

WHEREAS, Currently the State reimburses counties half of the cost for juveniles placed by Family Court in secure and non-secure detention facilities, and

WHEREAS, The New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) indicated the State has recommended that counties find alternative diversion programs for these youth, even though there is no possibility of diversion or other community-based alternatives for youths placed in secure detention, and noted that the State recently has been closing a number of State-owned and operated secure detention facilities, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature joins NYSAC in urging the State Legislature to oppose this policy of shifting 100 percent of the cost of juvenile detention facilities to counties, and, be further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Albany County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to NYSAC for distribution to Governor Spitzer and the State Legislature, and to the appropriate County Officials.

*Adopted by unanimous vote. 3/10/08*