

## RESOLUTION NO. 118

### URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE THE PROPOSED SHIFT OF THE STATE'S SHARE OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE COSTS 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 New York State Executive Budget has broken a historic State/local partnership by proposing to increase the county share of the Family Assistance and Safety Net programs by two percent, while simultaneously decreasing the State share by two percent, and

WHEREAS, The New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) estimates this shift in cost for the two public assistance programs would force most counties to raise property taxes to make up the difference, and

WHEREAS, For Albany County, the unexpected additional cost is estimated at \$290,000 this year and \$386,000 next year, assuming no increase in caseload, according to the County Department of Management and Budget, and

WHEREAS, Since 1938, the State and counties have equally split the 50% non-federal share of Family Assistance costs, while each pays half the cost for the Safety Net program, for which there is no Federal contribution, and

WHEREAS, The State Executive Budget contains another proposal that would cost counties approximately \$7.5 million per year, through the establishment a local share for the cost of carving out two-parent families from federal work participation rates, simply by removing a hold harmless provision for local districts, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature joins NYSAC in opposing any policy or fiscal initiative such as the proposed increase in the local share for public assistance, the Safety Net and the "two-parent carve-out" that changes the fundamental promise Governor Spitzer made to the counties of New York State about ongoing, historic state and local partnerships, and, be it further

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

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