

## RESOLUTION NO. 300

### REQUESTING THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO INCORPORATE A LOWER-COST CANADIAN DRUG OPTION IN THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT PLAN

Introduced: 8/11/08

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

WHEREAS, Schenectady and Rensselaer Counties are realizing significant savings through a lower-cost Canadian drug option offered as part of their employee/retiree prescription drug benefit plans, and

WHEREAS, The savings for the most commonly prescribed medications to treat such ongoing conditions as asthma, diabetes, high cholesterol and blood pressure averages \$100 and more for a three-month supply, and

WHEREAS, Officials from Schenectady County, the first county in the state to take advantage of the Canadian drug option, estimate that savings have reached about \$100,000 a month, or \$1.2 million a year, while Rensselaer County officials report savings of \$270,000 in 2007 based on 2,676 prescriptions filled through the Canadian drug option, and

WHEREAS, Albany County could anticipate yearly savings of about \$687,000 if only 10% of the covered beneficiaries participated in a Canadian drug option and more than \$2 million if 30% of those beneficiaries ordered so-called maintenance medications from Canada, and

WHEREAS, Both Schenectady and Rensselaer Counties offered a variety of incentives, such as zero co-pays, cash awards or subsidies for membership in health clubs, to encourage participation in the Canadian drug option, and

WHEREAS, Albany County's current three-year contract to provide administrative services for the prescription drug benefit plan expires this year, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature requests the County Executive and the Department of Human Resources to incorporate a lower-cost Canadian drug option in the County's prescription drug benefit plan for employees, retirees and their dependents when it seeks bids on a successor contract for administration of the plan, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Human Resources Department devise a program to offer employees and retirees incentives to participate in the Canadian drug option to achieve maximum savings for the County and County taxpayers, and, be further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

*On roll call vote the following voted in favor: Mr. Aylward, Ms. Benedict, Messrs. Beston, Bullock, Ms. Chapman, Messrs. Clay, Clenahan, Clouse, Commisso, Cotrofeld, Dawson, Domalewicz, Ethier, Gordon, Higgins, Hoblock, Houghtaling, Infante, Joyce, Mss. Lockart, Maffia-Tobler, Messrs. Mayo, McCoy, Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Mendick, Morse, Nichols, Rahm, Reilly, Scavo, Steck, Timmins, Tunny, Ward, Ms. Willingham and Mr. Zeilman – 36.*

*Those opposed: 0.*

*Resolution was adopted. 8/11/08*