

1 **2006 Fall Seminar**  
2 **Standing Committee on Medicaid and Human Services**  
3 **Resolution #03**

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5 **RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE**  
6 **TO STRENGTHEN STATE SUPPORT AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL**  
7 **FLEXIBILITY WITH THE NEXT PHASE OF WELFARE REFORM**  
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9 **WHEREAS**, The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act, signed into  
10 law ten years ago, reformed the federal welfare system by establishing the Temporary  
11 Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program which ended individual entitlements and  
12 placed a new emphasis on work and self-sufficiency; and  
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14 **WHEREAS**, through the combined efforts of state and local officials, New York  
15 State achieved a 65 percent reduction in public assistance caseloads and a combined  
16 taxpayer savings estimated at \$20 billion from welfare reform; and  
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18 **WHEREAS**, even with these accomplishments the challenges faced by people  
19 living in poverty and a growing demand for local support services still remains; and  
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21 **WHEREAS**, the federal reauthorization of the TANF program marks the next  
22 phase of welfare reform with significant changes that have major fiscal and policy  
23 implications for New York State; and  
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25 **WHEREAS**, under the new TANF rules, the state will be pressured to meet  
26 updated work participation requirements that restrict qualifying work activities and  
27 increase documentation and reporting requirements, or face substantial fiscal penalties,  
28 which under state law, can be shifted onto counties; and  
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30 **WHEREAS**, New York's policy makers have not provided the necessary level of  
31 state support or flexibility to build on our initial success, address the new federal TANF  
32 rules and ensure that New York avoids federal fiscal penalties; and  
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34 **WHEREAS**, to achieve these goals and ensure that New York will meet the new  
35 federal requirements, the state must assure that:  
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- 37 • TANF funds are directed to people at immediate risk of being on public assistance  
38 or transitioning off of public assistance,
- 39 • State policies promote a broad interpretation of TANF rules to maximize local  
40 flexibility and ensure continued federal funding,
- 41 • State funding for benefits and services to low-income individuals is utilized to the  
42 greatest extent possible to bolster efforts to achieve compliance with TANF  
43 requirements,
- 44 • All state and local agency activities are integrated and coordinated to maximize  
45 compliance with federal requirements, while addressing barriers to employment,

- 1           • New technologies are embraced in a coordinated way to simplify implementation  
2           and ensure compliance with new federal reporting requirements; and  
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4           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the New York State  
5 Association of Counties (NYSAC) calls on the Governor and State Legislature to  
6 strengthen state support and provide additional flexibility with the next phase of welfare  
7 reform; and  
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9           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that NYSAC shall forward copies of this  
10 resolution to the Governor, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed  
11 necessary and proper.