

1 **2006 FALL CONFERENCE**  
2 **Standing Committee on Public Health & Mental Health**  
3 **Resolution #01**

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5 **RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE**  
6 **TO MAKE PRIMARY AND PREVENTATIVE CARE THE FOUNDATION OF**  
7 **HEALTHCARE REFORM**

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9 **WHEREAS**, New York’s healthcare system is undergoing a major transition, led  
10 by the state’s efforts to restructure the hospital and long term care sector through the  
11 Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; and

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13 **WHEREAS**, driven by escalating healthcare costs, in particular taxpayer funded  
14 Medicaid payments for institutional care, these efforts have focused on the restructuring,  
15 consolidation, and closure of hospitals and nursing facilities; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, while hospitals and nursing homes are a major cost center in need  
18 of reform, no discussion about “health care facilities” can be complete or comprehensive  
19 without discussing the need to build and improve the primary care infrastructure  
20 throughout the state; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, extensive evidence on the impact of primary healthcare shows that  
23 more and better primary and preventative care results in superior health outcomes,  
24 reduced health disparities and reduced expenditures for avoidable institutional care; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, primary and preventative care is the key to addressing the growing  
27 epidemic of chronic health conditions, such as diabetes and heart disease; disparities in  
28 experienced healthcare in low income communities; and the need to control rising  
29 healthcare costs by preventing expensive and avoidable emergency room visits and  
30 hospitalizations; and

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32 **WHEREAS**, a healthcare reform plan that focuses on the cost of healthcare  
33 institutions without a deliberate primary and preventative care agenda will not create a  
34 solution to the high cost of healthcare and will likely yield insufficient results; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, to achieve these goals and ensure that New York’s healthcare  
37 reform efforts will be successful, the state must assure that:

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- 39 • The model of healthcare used in New York is modernized to be proactive, built  
40 around the latest clinical standards and coordinated to ensure the continuity of  
41 care,
  - 42 • Communities across the state, both urban and rural, have adequate access to  
43 primary care,
  - 44 • Electronic patient identification, records and billings are embraced to ensure  
45 efficient and high quality care,

- 1       • Incentives in the payment system are aligned so both providers and recipients  
2       share in the cost savings they produce; and  
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4       **NOW, THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
5 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the Governor and State Legislature to make primary and  
6 preventative care the foundation of healthcare reform; and  
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8       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of Counties  
9 shall forward copies of this Resolution to the Governor, the New York State Legislature  
10 and all others deemed necessary and proper.