

1 **2006 Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Medicaid & Human Services**
3 **Resolution #01**

4
5 **RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE**
6 **LOCAL MEDICAID CAP AS PART OF AN EXPANDED MEDICAID**
7 **REFORM EFFORT**

8
9 **WHEREAS**, Medicaid is a federal, state, and local health care program whose
10 costs and administration represents the largest component of the state and local fiscal
11 relationship in New York, currently totaling over \$46 billion annually; and
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13 **WHEREAS**, since the program's inception, counties across the state have
14 struggled to fund the growth of the Medicaid local share and even with local budget
15 austerity measures, the programs cost has resulted in higher property taxes, higher sales
16 taxes, and a decline in county services; and
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18 **WHEREAS**, in response to the coordinated efforts of this Association and county
19 officials from across the state, the Governor and State Legislature included in the enacted
20 2005-06 State Budget a local Medicaid "cap" designed to limit annual Medicaid growth
21 to 3.5 percent in 2006, 3.25 percent in 2007, and 3 percent in 2008 and years thereafter;
22 and
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24 **WHEREAS**, this Medicaid "cap" represents a significant reform in the way New
25 York finances its Medicaid program and provides counties with a new level of stability
26 and predictably that will benefit local taxpayers for years to come; and
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28 **WHEREAS**, while the Medicaid "cap" will help shield local taxpayers from the
29 impact of excessive Medicaid growth, counties remain concerned with the future
30 sustainability of the Medicaid program, the effect on other state and local budget
31 priorities, and the overall outlook for New York's economic competitiveness; and
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33 **WHEREAS**, as New York's Medicaid program has evolved, it has become
34 overly expensive, inefficient and unable to adapt to today's ever changing health care
35 delivery environment; and
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37 **WHEREAS**, New York's Medicaid program must be reformed into a modern,
38 patient driven system that ensures public integrity, improves patient outcomes and
39 reduces overall program costs:
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41 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
42 Counties (NYSAC) calls for the full implementation of the Local Medicaid Cap enacted
43 in the 2005-06 state budget to stabilize county budgets and the impact the program has on
44 local real property taxes; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls upon the Governor and State
2 Legislature to continue to focus on the Medicaid program and expand statewide reform
3 efforts designed to ensure public integrity, improve patient outcomes, and reduce overall
4 program costs; and

5
6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of
7 Counties shall forward copies of this Resolution to the Governor, the New York State
8 Legislature and all others deemed necessary and proper.