

Counties urge rejection of Medicaid changes in wake of revenue forecast

By Shannon Young, Politico PRO

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With additional revenues agreed upon in a new [consensus revenue forecast](#), top county [officials are again urging the Cuomo administration to reject a proposal](#) that they argue will “take at least \$150 million from local taxpayers and effectively dissolve the caps on local Medicaid costs.”

New York State Association of Counties President John F. Marren, who has opposed the [executive budget's proposed changes](#) to the Medicaid local share, said today that “state leaders should let the Medicaid Redesign Team II do its work and make cost containment reforms that don't punish local taxpayers” rather than “making local taxpayers pay for new Medicaid costs.”

Division of Budget spokesperson Freeman Klopott contended, however, that the governor’s proposal would shift “over \$4 billion in local Medicaid spending this year from localities to the state, easing local government budgets.” He added that the state authorized new revenue last year for counties to further ease their budgets.

“We are simply asking local governments to partner with the state to control costs,” he said in a statement. “To that end, we look forward to working with the counties to identify savings in county-administered Medicaid costs to ensure the program is financially stable for the future and continues to provide high-quality care to New Yorkers who need it most.”

The Senate and Assembly leadership recently agreed with Gov. Andrew Cuomo's estimate that [revenues could be projected as \\$700 million above the original two-year total outlined](#) by the administration. The two houses had projected more than \$1 billion in additional revenues.

Cuomo's fiscal year 2021 budget calls for tying year-to-year growth in the local share to the Medicaid Global Cap. Any government that exceeds the cap would be on the hook for the overages.

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