

1 **2020 NYSAC Legislative Conference**
2 **Standing Committee on Children with Special Health Care Needs**
3 **Resolution # 6**

4 **Resolution Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Expand the 2019-**
5 **2020 Five Percent Rate Increase for Targeted Providers to Ensure**
6 **Inclusivity of all Early Intervention Service Providers**

7 **WHEREAS**, Early Intervention (EI) therapists, service coordinators, teachers
8 and evaluators provide crucial services to children with disabilities and developmental
9 delays; and

10 **WHEREAS**, many areas of the State are facing EI provider shortages and the existing
11 number of providers is inadequate to meet the needs of the currently enrolled EI
12 program children and their families; and

13 **WHEREAS**, EI providers have not received a rate increase in 13 years and EI rates
14 were cut twice since 2010; and

15 **WHEREAS**, counties providing EI services are facing detrimental fiscal impacts
16 related to costs associated with the program; and

17 **WHEREAS**, in 2013, EI providers took on the responsibility of commercial insurance
18 billing with no rate increase to cover their administrative costs; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Department of Health 2019 measure to increase rates
20 for Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT) and Speech Language Pathology
21 (SLP) did not fully address the problem that Early Intervention rates had not been
22 increased in over a decade; and

23 **WHEREAS**, providers, particularly those outside of the OT, PT, SLP professions are
24 leaving the EI program due to perceived lack of recognition received from being
25 excluded from the five percent rate increase during the 2019-2020 SFY budget.

26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of
27 Counties calls on the Governor and State Legislature to expand the five percent provider
28 rate increase to include all Early Intervention service provider types using State invested
29 dollars, while ensuring counties are held free from fiscal impact caused by such a rate
30 increase; and

31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any provider rate increase will be administered
32 using State funding to ensure localities are not subject to additional EI program
33 expenses; and

34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties
35 of New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that New York State Association of Counties shall
37 forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State
38 Legislature and all others deemed necessary and proper.