

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**URGING LOCAL FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO
ADVOCATE FOR INCREASED FUNDING LEVELS FOR OLDER ADULTS IN THE
FEDERAL AND STATE BUDGETS TO ALLOCATE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO
ALLOW AREA AGENCIES ON AGING TO PROVIDE CRITICAL SERVICES TO
OLDER ADULTS SO THEY MAY AGE SAFELY IN PLACE**

By Mr. Burke, District 12

WHEREAS, The Older Americans Act enacted in 1965, provided regulatory parameters and services to assist older individuals and their caregivers and New York State is home to 4.8 million Older New Yorkers and is currently fourth in the nation for the over 60 population, and

WHEREAS, over the course of the past 58 years, Area Agencies on Aging have provided valuable services and support such as: home delivered meals, home care services, transportation, legal services, home modifications, evidence-based interventions, case management, information and assistance, social adult day services, respite, health promotion and wellness, health insurance information and assistance, elder abuse prevention and mitigation, senior center programming, volunteer opportunities, ancillary services, and operate the NY Connects No Wrong Door infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, although these services are mandated by Federal and State regulations in order to accept Older Americans Act Funding, the burden of the cost of these services is heavily dependent on local government funding and Federal and State contributions to Older New Yorkers have not kept pace with the growing needs of the population, and

WHEREAS, Older New Yorkers comprise 43% of the national GDP, and the current budget from New York State Office for the Aging is less than 1% over the State Budget and Older New Yorkers provide social, economic, and intellectual capital and provide over 495 million hours of volunteer services at an economic value of 13.8 billion per year and unpaid caregivers provide uncompensated care worth over 32 Billion dollars per year, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County is home to 26,000 individuals over the age of 60 and one third of senior citizens are living in poverty or just above poverty levels and are struggling to afford food, medications, home heating fuel, rent, mortgages, and utilities due to the high cost of inflation while living on extremely limited incomes, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators urge local Federal and State Government Representatives to advocate for increased funding levels for older adults in the Federal and State budgets to allocate to local government to allow local Area Agencies on Aging to provide critical services to older adults so they may age safely in place.