

1 **2020 NYSAC Legislative Conference**
2 **Standing Committee on Public Health/Mental Health**
3 **Resolution #2**

4 **Resolution in Support Increasing Funding Levels for Local Public Health**
5 **Programs**

6 **WHEREAS**, local health departments (LHDs) are New York State’s partners and
7 operational extensions, working in the forefront of communities, addressing public
8 health issues, and serving as the first line of defense against all public health crises by
9 protecting communities and residents; and

10 **WHEREAS**, activities led by the 58 LHDs are paramount to our collective ability to
11 achieve Prevention Agenda goals, address health disparities, improve health outcomes
12 and ensure community safety and stability; and

13 **WHEREAS**, counties have not received an increase in core public health aid in more
14 than six years, nor have they received adequate compensation to respond to expanded
15 state mandates and emerging health issues; and

16 **WHEREAS**, state budget appropriations for public health spending have been reduced
17 year after year, including in the 2019-2020 State Budget, which reduced New York City’s
18 Article 6 reimbursement from 36% to 20%; and

19 **WHEREAS**, cuts to public health funding in any form impact millions of New Yorkers
20 and perpetuate health disparities, particularly in our children and elderly residents; and

21 **WHEREAS**, New York State’s budget shortfall cannot prevent local health
22 departments from providing mandated public health services. For example, those
23 related to lead, ebola, corona virus, and water contamination; and

24 **WHEREAS**, pooling public health categorical spending would decrease transparency
25 of the public health programs funded by the state’s limited aid to localities.

26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
27 Counties calls on the Governor and State Legislature to increase funding for public
28 health services and retain separate appropriations so important health interventions can
29 continue in the upcoming year; and

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

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