

# ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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PATRICK K. RYAN  
*County Executive*



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*Deputy County Executive*

March 10, 2020

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Majority Leader, New York State Senate  
LOB 907  
Albany, NY 12248

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie  
Speaker, New York State Assembly  
LOB 932  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie:

I will be meeting with the New York State Legislators who represent Ulster County to share my concerns about the proposed Medicaid Local District Spending Reforms included in Governor's Fiscal Year 2021 Executive Budget. This proposal will have a significant negative impact on Ulster County taxpayers and put in jeopardy essential services for our shared residents. In a worst-case scenario, in which the County were to exceed both the property tax cap and the Medicaid global cap, it would represent a \$5.35 million annual impact to the County's budget and a nearly 7% increase in the property tax levy.

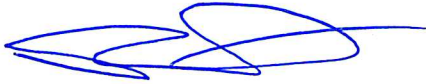
Ulster County remains committed to working with New York State to ensure the highest quality services are delivered to our residents at the best value. However, with the state setting Medicaid eligibility requirements, it is virtually impossible for counties such as ours to control or reduce the costs associated with these programs. If implemented, the Governor's proposed changes will shift significant financial burden to the counties, without providing us with the tools to cut costs. This would significantly reduce our ability to fund critical services and programs such as transportation, mental health and addiction services, Sheriff road patrols, road repair, snow removal, youth services, veteran's services, 911 dispatch, senior services and more for the over 180,000 residents of Ulster County.

These proposed provisions lack clarity and do not solve the problems at the heart of the current \$4 billion Medicaid shortfall. I support the work of the Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT II) to find solutions and savings across this critical program. However, until that work is complete, it would be premature to shift the financial burden to the counties. I urge the removal of Part R of the Health and Mental Hygiene Article VII language from the Final Budget, and the accompanying \$150 million

cost shift to taxpayers across counties. I ask you to reject these proposals, which will result in irrevocable harm to the fiscal stability of our county and the services we provide.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and continued partnership and advocacy on behalf of the residents of Ulster County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick K. Ryan". The signature is stylized with overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Patrick K. Ryan

County Executive