



# Monroe County Legislature

**SABRINA LAMAR**  
PRESIDENT

**GEORGE J. HEBERT**  
LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 15

March 7, 2022

Monroe County Legislature  
406 Monroe County Office Building  
39 West Main Street  
Rochester, NY 14614

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No. <u>220086</u>
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature of Monroe County
Committee Assignment
<b>Memorializing Referral</b> -L

**Re: Memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature to Alleviate Taxpayers of the Unfair Financial Burden Placed Upon Them by the Local Share of Medicaid Costs**

Honorable Legislators:

When it was created by the federal government in 1966, the Medicaid health insurance program for the poor and disabled was intended to be fully funded by the Federal and State governments. However, at the time of its creation, New York State inappropriately forced local governments to pay half of the State's Medicaid costs. Despite these efforts bi-partisan efforts, local costs of Medicaid funding paid in New York State continue to be greater than local costs paid in all other states combined. For example, in 2021, Allegany County spent 28.39% of its total tax levy on Medicaid, or 8.6% of its total budget.

The amount of money local governments must contribute to Medicaid in New York is excessive and places an unfair burden on the local taxpayers. Furthermore, counties with a greater proportion of poor and disabled residents bear a greater financial burden to cover the program's costs, highlighting the inequality of forcing local taxpayers to foot the bill. Therefore, I call on Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to give counties the authority to do the following: audit the Medicaid program, control the cost of prescription drugs, set provider reimbursement rates, modify eligibility, and benefit levels, adjust to changing demographics in State, control provider contracts.

Previous suggestions such as taking county governments' federal enhanced Medicaid match savings, diverting local sales tax revenues to pay local shares, and eliminating the STAR exemption do not truly alleviate the burden placed upon local taxpayers and instead simply shift costs and continue to strain local governments. It is our duty to protect our County from further and continued unnecessary spending shifted upon local governments at the expense of our taxpayers. Therefore, I ask you to join me in calling upon Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to alleviate taxpayers from the unfair burden placed upon them by the Medicaid local share, either through legislation, sound budgeting; greater efficiencies in the program's administration, or any combination thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

Sabrina LaMar  
Monroe County Legislature  
President

George J. Hebert  
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District 15