

**RESOLUTION NO. 539 -2011, ESTABLISHING A POLICY OF
FAIR AND EQUITABLE BUDGET REDUCTIONS AT COUNTY
HEALTH CENTERS**

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk provides a wide range of health care services at six contracted family health centers located throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, the operation of the County's health center system is reliant on adequate State funding; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York is not only reducing local aid in its 2011-2012 budget, it is also seeking to "claw back" \$15,000,000 from the County for patient services that were rendered in past years; and

WHEREAS, the State's draconian and arbitrary cutbacks are exacerbating the County's already perilous fiscal situation; and

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk is left with no choice but to make sharp, mid-year reductions in health center funding; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has determined that the Huntington and Coram health centers should bear a disproportionate share of these budget cuts; and

WHEREAS, preliminary reports indicate the County Executive wants to make 40% reductions at these health centers; and

WHEREAS, the Coram and Huntington centers will be forced to close if these cuts are made; and

WHEREAS, the closure of the Coram and Huntington health centers will cripple the County's health care delivery system and negatively impact the thousands of residents who rely on these centers; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive cannot close health centers unilaterally; and

WHEREAS, it is the position of this County Legislature that health care cuts should be shared in a fair and equitable fashion, which will allow all County health centers to remain open to the public; and

WHEREAS, this County Legislature further determines that, should the County negotiate a return of some or all of the "claw back" funds from the State, such funding should also be distributed equally among all County health centers; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the County of Suffolk rejects budgetary reductions that will force the closure of any County health center; and be it further

2nd **RESOLVED**, that it is the policy of the County of Suffolk that reductions in funding for the County's health care centers during 2011 will be shared equitably by and among the County's six contracted family health centers; and be it further

3rd **RESOLVED**, that the Commissioner of the Department of Health Services is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to propose and administer balanced reductions in health center funding that will allow all County health centers to remain open so that they may continue to provide health services to the residents of Suffolk County; and be it further

4th **RESOLVED**, that it is the policy of the County of Suffolk that any funds received by the County from the State of New York for previously rendered patient services shall be shared equitably by and among the County's six contracted family health centers; and be it further

5th **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: June 21, 2011

EFFECTIVE PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-15(F) OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER,
RETURNED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE UNSIGNED JULY 7, 2011

SUFFOLK COUNTY
County Legislature
RIVERHEAD, NY



This is to Certify That I, TIM LAUBE, Clerk of the County Legislature of the County of Suffolk, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office, and which was duly adopted by the County Legislature of said County on June 21, 2011 and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of the County Legislature of the County of Suffolk.

Tim Laube

Clerk of the Legislature

Intro. Res. 1470

Res. No. 539

June 21, 2011

Motion:
Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Muratore, Anker
Eddington, Montano, Cilmi, Lindsay, Vitoria-Fisher, Barraga,
Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

Co-Sponsors:
Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Muratore, Anker
Eddington, Montano, Cilmi, Lindsay, Vitoria-Fisher, Barraga,
Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

Second:
Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Muratore, Anker
Eddington, Montano, Cilmi, Lindsay, Vitoria-Fisher, Barraga,
Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

LD	Legislator	Yes	No	Abs	NP	R
1	Edward P. ROMAINE					
2	Jay H. SCHNEIDERMAN					
3	Kate M. BROWNING					
4	Thomas MURATORE					
6	Sarah S. ANKER					
7	Jack EDDINGTON					
9	Ricardo MONTANO					
10	Thomas CILMI					
11	Thomas F. BARRAGA					
12	John M. KENNEDY, JR.					
13	Lynne C. NOWICK					
14	Wayne R. HORSLEY					
15	DuWayne GREGORY					
16	Steven H. STERN					
17	Lou D'AMARO					
18	Jon COOPER					
5	Vivian VILORIA-FISHER, D.P.O.					
8	William J. LINDSAY, P.O.					
	Totals	18				

MOTION

Approve

Table: _____

Send To Committee

Table Subject To Call

Lay On The Table

Discharge

Take Out of Order

Reconsider

Waive Rule _____

Override Veto

Close

Recess

APPROVED FAILED _____

No Motion _____ No Second _____

RESOLUTION DECLARED

ADOPTED

NOT ADOPTED

Tim Laube

Tim Laube, Clerk of the Legislature

Roll Call _____ Voice Vote

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Steve Levy
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

2011-07-07 P 4:05

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
SUFFOLK COUNTY, N.Y.
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

July 7, 2011

Presiding Officer William J. Lindsay and
Members of the Suffolk County Legislature
William H. Rogers Legislative Building
725 Veterans Memorial Highway
Smithtown, New York 11787

**RE: RESOLUTION NO. 539 – 2011, ESTABLISHING A POLICY OF FAIR AND
EQUITABLE BUDGET REDUCTIONS AT COUNTY HEALTH CENTERS.**

Dear Presiding Officer Lindsay and Members of the Legislature:

I am returning herein **RESOLUTION NO. 539 – 2011, ESTABLISHING A POLICY
OF FAIR AND EQUITABLE BUDGET REDUCTIONS AT COUNTY HEALTH
CENTERS**; unsigned.

I share the Legislature's outrage at the recent action by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to retroactively deny \$20 million in reimbursement for public health services, including chronic care for adults treated at our network of county health centers. Suffolk County has received State aid reimbursement for the services in question as far back as 1971. This sudden claim by the NYSDOH that these services do not qualify for reimbursement is unexplainable.

Given this unprecedented loss of State aid, I was left with no choice but to begin the process of making the necessary mid-year reductions to ensure a balanced budget. While I had originally considered an across the board reduction, similar to what is provided for in Resolution 539, the Commissioner of Health urged me to consider alternatives since an across the board reduction of this size could cripple our health system as a whole. In the alternative, the Department of Health Services presented and I supported a plan that would have defunded the Dolan Health Center and closed the Coram Health Center operated by Stonybrook University Hospital.

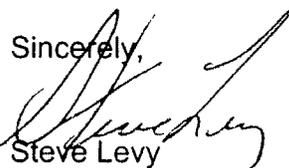
This plan would have salvaged our remaining clinics by requiring only a 6 percent cut for these 8 clinics. The legislature, however, rejected this proposal, and instead sought to refund Coram and Dolan. This led to a huge 22 percent cut per clinic, which could climb to over 30 percent if no state aid is forthcoming. (It has been inaccurately

reported that the cuts are now spread out evenly amongst all clinics, but the sponsor exempted Riverhead and Tri-Community from any cuts at all. These are the two clinics with county employees.)

Following the passage of Resolution 539, the Department of Health Services notified our contract hospitals that the policy set by the Legislature would result in a 22 percent reduction to their 2011 budgets. Needless to say, the reaction, except for the Dolan Health Center, has been quite tumultuous. While I preferred a less draconian alternative for the remaining clinics than what passed, I am confronted with the fact that there must be a sense of closure and certainly for our budget and for the health providers. A veto at this late date would keep us in a limbo state that would benefit no one. Yet signing this bill would suggest that I concur it is beneficial to take this approach.

In the end, neither the Legislative nor Executive branch should be blamed for these cuts. The blame falls squarely on our State government. Hopefully, our two branches can continue to work cooperatively to deal with this mess handed to us by the State.

I am therefore, returning this bill unsigned.

Sincerely,

Steve Levy
County Executive of Suffolk County

cc: All Suffolk County Legislators
Tim Laube, Clerk of the Legislature
Christine Malafi, Esq., Suffolk County Attorney
Lynne A. Bizzarro, Esq., Chief Deputy County Attorney
Christopher Kent, Chief Deputy County Executive
Edward Dumas, Chief Deputy County Executive
Eric Naughton, Deputy County Executive for Finance and Management
Ken Crannell, Deputy County Executive
Connie Corso, Budget Director
Eric Kopp, Assistant Deputy County Executive
Dan Aug, Director of Communications
Mark Smith, Deputy Director of Communications