

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



GEORGE M. BORRELLO  
SENATOR  
57TH DISTRICT

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

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February 23, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor  
New York State  
Executive Chamber  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

I respectfully request that you amend your SFY 2023-24 Executive Budget proposal to **restore Enhanced Federal Medicaid Percentage (eFMAP) funding to county and local governments. Your plan to retain eFMAP funding at the state level is an unfair burden on already overburdened New York taxpayers.**

**I also request that you release the \$1.2 billion in eFMAP reconciliation payments owed to the counties since 2017.**

Saddling local taxpayers with up to \$2 billion in additional costs at a time when New York State has an \$8.7 billion budget surplus is unconscionable, particularly when it was taxpayers' spending that fueled the surplus. This is no way to thank New Yorkers for their faith in our economy.

As a former county official, you know that costs imposed on local governments by Albany eventually come out of New Yorkers' pockets in the form of higher property taxes. Federal eFMAP funds were intended to go directly to local governments to help hold local costs down.

In the 57<sup>th</sup> Senate District alone, keeping eFMAP in Albany this year would cost Allegany County taxpayers \$1.3 million, Cattaraugus County taxpayers \$2.17 million, Chautauqua County taxpayers \$4 million, Genesee County taxpayers \$1.2 million and Wyoming County taxpayers \$692,000.

Not only does this proposal hurt New York taxpayers, it also nullifies Congress' intent that the eFMAP funds be shared with local governments that contribute to the Medicaid system.

Again, I urge you to reconsider this misguided proposal to take eFMAP from the counties and local governments that have contributed to the Medicaid system in good faith, anticipating eFMAP funding would help reduce costs to local taxpayers.

At a time when New Yorkers face an affordability crisis and we lead the nation in outmigration the last thing we should do is add to the tax burden of hardworking taxpayers and business owners.

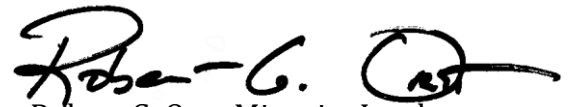
Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to discuss this issue with you in more detail if necessary.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,



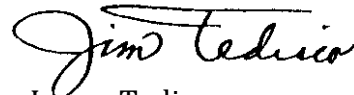
George M. Borrello  
Senator, 57<sup>th</sup> District



Robert G. Ort, Minority Leader  
Senator, 62<sup>nd</sup> District



Patrick M. Gallivan  
Senator, 60<sup>th</sup> District



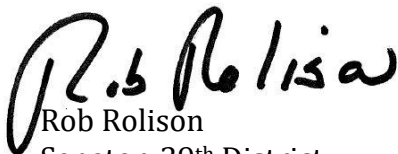
James Tedisco  
Senator, 44<sup>th</sup> District



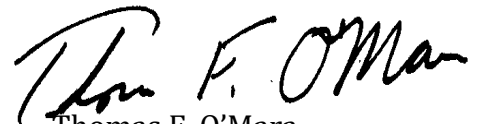
Joseph A. Griffo  
Senator, 53<sup>rd</sup> District



Patricia Canzeron-Fitzpatrick  
Senator, 9<sup>th</sup> District



Rob Rolison  
Senator, 39<sup>th</sup> District



Thomas F. O'Mara  
Senator, 58<sup>th</sup> District



Daniel G. Stec  
Senator, 45<sup>th</sup> District

CC: Shawn Mackinnon, Secretary to the Minority Conference.