## Resolution Urging Governor Kathleen C. Hochul to Sign the Rescue EMS Package of Legislation to Strengthen our Emergency Medical Services

**WHEREAS,** Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is a vital resource, necessary to the health and well-being of communities across New York; and

**WHEREAS,** as a system that provides a wide range of prehospital medical care to sick or injured people in emergency situations, the difference between a municipality that provides for EMS and one that does not can often make the difference between life and death; and

**WHEREAS,** despite its vast importance, there is an ongoing EMS crisis in this state, particularly in how it is funded, staffed, and operated; and

**WHEREAS,** much of this stems from a fundamental misconception about EMS vis-a-vis other critical services like police and fire. This is reflected in New York State law, which fails to recognize the essential nature of EMS; and

**WHEREAS,** as a result, EMS providers are often undervalued and under-respected for the critical role they play in our communities; and

**WHEREAS,** the New York State Legislature has passed three critical pieces of legislation to help our EMS system of care; and

**WHEREAS,** the EMS framework in New York includes an array of private, public, or not-for-profit providers that have expanded across the state in a scattered, patchwork approach, leaving many New York residents uncertain whether an EMS provider will be available in their community at the time of need, which is why we need to create greater flexibility for municipalities to facilitate EMS to meet unique local challenges represents a critical next step in the provision of EMS.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,**that [COUNTY] urges Governor Kathleen C. Hochul to immediately call for and sign the following pieces of legislation:

* **S.8486-C (Hinchey) / A.9102-C (Kelles)**

This legislation authorizes Medicaid reimbursement to emergency medical services (EMS) agencies for providing Treatment in Place (TIP) to a patient at the point of response; as well as Transportation to an Alternate Provider (TAP), getting a patient to the most appropriate health care setting other than a hospital, such as a mental health clinic, rehabilitation facility or urgent care. This is NOT legislation that will supplement any existing medical services provided by nurses or hospital staff.

* **S.6226-A (Hinchey)/A.5789-A (Woerner)**
* This legislation amends the public health law to allow for ambulance services and advanced life support first response service to store and distribute blood. Distribution and administration of the blood on an ambulance is limited to only qualified medical and health personnel, such as a registered nurse.

Ambulances continue to be prohibited from carrying their own blood products to administer to patients in hemorrhagic shock. This legislation permits all ambulance services to provide the same blood transfusion services to patients as permitted for air transport ambulance services when such ambulance services meet the same standards as currently set forth in the law.

Permitting all ambulances to qualify to transfuse blood products to patients to resuscitate them during transport will result in more saved lives.

* [**S.2862-A (Martinez)/A.2121-A (Stern)**](https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=%0D%0A&leg_video=&bn=s2862&term=2023&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Committee%26nbspVotes=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y)

This legislation provides localities with the option of adopting a local law to allow residents who serve in a neighboring municipality the ability to receive a tax exemption they would be entitled to had they served in the municipality in which they reside.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**that [COUNTY] shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy C. Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the New York State Association of Counties, and all others deemed necessary and proper.