

1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**
2 **Standing Committee on Children with Special Needs**
3 **Resolution #2**

4
5 **Resolution Urging the New York State Department of Health to Remove the**
6 **Proposed Decrease in Telehealth Service Rates and Clarify Implementation**
7 **Details Regarding Early Intervention Reimbursement Changes**
8

9 **WHEREAS**, on December 31, 2024, the New York State Department of Health
10 (NYSDOH) submitted a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to modify Early Intervention fee-
11 for-service reimbursement rates; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, while the SPA includes a 5 percent rate increase for in-person services, it
14 also proposes a reduction in reimbursement rates for telehealth services, with regional
15 decreases of 22 percent for New York City, Westchester, Poughkeepsie, and Long Island,
16 and a 10 percent reduction for the rest of the state; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, these reductions would disproportionately impact families relying on
19 telehealth services for early intervention care and would further exacerbate existing
20 provider shortages by making telehealth services less financially viable, leading to some
21 providers ceasing Early Intervention (EI) services in certain counties; and

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23 **WHEREAS**, the proposed SPA does not provide sufficient clarity on how these
24 reductions were calculated, raising concerns about transparency and fairness; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, the SPA did not include the 4 percent rate increase for rural and
27 underserved areas agreed upon in the 2024-25 budget, and further clarification is
28 needed on whether NYSDOH plans to submit an additional SPA to ensure the increase
29 is effective by April 1, 2025; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, it is essential for counties to receive a minimum of three months' notice to
32 prepare for any reimbursement rate changes and a clearly defined reconciliation process
33 for retroactive implementation to ensure proper local spending accountability.

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35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
36 Counties urges the New York State Department of Health to not decrease telehealth
37 service rates to allow for further clarification and reexamination of this proposal; and

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39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSDOH provide a minimum of three months'
40 notice prior to any reimbursement rate changes to ensure counties can adequately
41 prepare; and

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43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSDOH clarify the timeline and
44 implementation plan for the 4 percent rate modifier for rural and underserved areas,
45 including a full breakdown of projected funding and the zip codes expected to be
46 included in the rollout; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSDOH clearly define a reconciliation process
2 for retroactive rate changes and clarify the planned implementation of changes to group
3 service billing; and
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5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSDOH clarify which in-person services the new
6 rates apply to and provide a full-service schedule for the rate increases; and
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8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of
9 New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and
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11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties shall
12 forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State
13 Legislature, and all others deemed necessary and proper.