

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE MAJORITY CAUCUS**RE: CONDEMNING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION AND ELON MUSK FOR ENDORSING POLICIES THAT THREATEN THE FINANCIAL STABILITY OF ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER AND ENDANGER PUBLIC HEALTH**

WHEREAS, Erie County Medical Center (ECMC) is a critical public hospital that provides lifesaving care to a disproportionate number of low-income, uninsured, and underinsured patients, serving as Western New York's premier Level 1 Adult Trauma Center and a key provider of behavioral health services; and

WHEREAS, ECMC employs nearly 3,800 people and plays an essential role in both the healthcare and economic stability of Erie County, providing high-quality medical services while relying on Medicaid funding to sustain its operations; and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program is vital to ECMC, as it helps offset the significant financial challenges associated with treating large numbers of Medicaid and uninsured patients, with Erie County contributing between \$40 million and \$70 million annually in intergovernmental transfer payments to leverage federal Medicaid dollars; and

WHEREAS, proposed cuts to Medicaid as part of the Trump administration's fiscal policies, including the House Republican budget resolution that tasks the House Energy and Commerce Committee with slashing \$880 billion in federal funding over ten years, pose an existential threat to safety net hospitals like ECMC; and

WHEREAS, Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz has warned that the loss of these intergovernmental transfer payments could lead to ECMC's financial insolvency, jeopardizing critical healthcare services for the region's most vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, these draconian cuts come at a time when ECMC is making significant strides toward financial stability, having reduced its operating losses from over \$100 million in 2023 to \$29.7 million in 2024, even as grant funding from the state and federal governments declines; and

WHEREAS, Elon Musk, as a vocal proponent of libertarian economic policies and reduced government spending on social services, has used his significant platform and resources to advocate for policies that undermine public healthcare funding, further endangering institutions like ECMC; and

WHEREAS, these attacks on Medicaid not only threaten ECMC but also endanger Kaleida Health's Oishei Children's Hospital and other safety net hospitals across Western New York that rely on Medicaid to serve pediatric, elderly, and low-income patients; and

WHEREAS, the Majority Caucus of the Erie County Legislature stands united against any effort to weaken the public healthcare infrastructure that Erie County residents depend upon; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature condemns the Trump administration's reckless attempts to gut Medicaid funding and calls upon Congress to reject any budget resolution that would result in reduced funding for safety net hospitals like ECMC; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature denounces Elon Musk's continued advocacy for policies that prioritize corporate greed over public well-being and calls upon him to cease using his influence to promote austerity measures that harm working-class Americans; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature urges Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and the federal delegation representing Erie County to take all necessary measures to protect Medicaid funding and ensure the financial viability of ECMC; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to President Donald J. Trump, Senate Majority Leader John Thune, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Governor Kathy Hochul, the Erie County Executive, the New York State Legislature, and the Western New York congressional delegation.