

RESOLUTION NO. 323

REQUESTING THE COUNTY HEALTH COMMISSIONER TO EXPLORE CREATING A MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS OF VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS TO SERVE DURING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Introduced: 9/11/06

By Messrs. Feeney, Aidala, Aylward, Beston, Clay, Collins, Commisso, Ms. Connolly, Messrs. Cunningham, Dawson, Domalewicz, Ethier, Feeney, Frederick, Gordon, Houghtaling, Infante, Joyce, Ms. Maffia-Tobler, Messrs. Mayo, McCoy, Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Monjeau, Morse, Nichols, Reilly, Riddick, Shafer, Steck, Ward, Mss. Wiley and Willingham:

WHEREAS, Communities around the State and the Country are forming Medical Reserve Corps made up of volunteer medical, public health and mental health professionals to serve in times of natural disasters and emergencies, and

WHEREAS, The Corps would provide a structure to organize and train health care professionals who are not part of existing public health, hospital-based or medical emergency response systems to supplement and strengthen response capabilities in the event of a large-scale emergency, and

WHEREAS, The volunteer professionals can be used in such events as floods and other natural disasters, evacuations requiring medical assessments or triage, a flu epidemic requiring quick mass distribution of vaccines or antivirals and terrorist attacks involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive weapons, and

WHEREAS, These individuals can be pre-credentialed so that they can be rapidly mobilized during a public health emergency ready to assist residents of Albany County, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature requests the County Health Commissioner to explore the creation of a Medical Reserve Corps unit made up of volunteer medical, public health and mental health professionals to support the County's established emergency response system in the event of a large-scale emergency, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Health Commissioner is requested to report his recommendations to the Health Committee of the Legislature, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Adopted by unanimous vote. 9/11/06