

RESOLUTION NO. 199

URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT SENATE BILL NO. 7090/ ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 10583 IN SUPPORT OF THE FAIR SHARE FOR HEALTH CARE ACT

Introduced: 6/12/06

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

WHEREAS, The growing number of individuals and families without health insurance who rely on publicly-funded health programs is straining the finances of state and county governments and is a major cause of the growing property tax burden, and

WHEREAS, Nearly 3 million New Yorkers lack any health insurance, and many more have inadequate insurance that fails to cover vital services and leaves them unable to pay their medical bills, and

WHEREAS, Nearly 80% of New York's uninsured are working people, who often are employed by large, profitable businesses, or are the dependents of workers, and

WHEREAS, Employers that fail to provide health insurance not only deny their workers needed care, but impose great costs on the public as these workers and their dependents turn to Medicaid, Family Health Plus, Child Health Plus and indigent care subsidies under the Health Care Reform Act, and

WHEREAS, Most large businesses in New York provide decent health coverage for their employees, and pay a price in higher taxes and insurance premiums because of the failure of giant, national corporations such as Wal-Mart to provide health coverage for their employees, and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 7090/Assembly Bill No. 10583 would right these wrongs by requiring businesses with more than 100 employees and no health plan to pay \$3 per hour per covered worker into a "Fair Share for Health Care Fund" subsidizing costs for the uninsured, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature hereby requests the Governor and the New York State Legislature to enact Senate Bill No. 7090 and Assembly Bill No. 10583, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Albany County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to Governor George Pataki, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senator Neil Breslin, Assemblymen Ronald Canestrari, John McEneny, Robert Reilly and Pat Casale and to the appropriate County Officials.

Adopted by unanimous vote. 6/12/06