

## RESOLUTION NO. 200

### URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO INCREASE THE PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE FOR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS RECEIVING MEDICAID OR SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME PAYMENTS

Introduced: 6/12/06

By Ms. Connolly, Messrs. Collins, Aidala, Aylward, Beston, Clay, Commisso, Cunningham, Domalewicz, Ethier, Feeney, Frederick, Gordon, Houghtaling, Infante, Joyce, Ms. Maffia-Tobler, Messrs. Mayo, McCoy, Ms. McKnight, Messrs. 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 \$50 monthly personal needs allowance for residents of nursing homes eligible for Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income payments has not been raised since 1981, according to the New York State Ombudsman Association which advocates on behalf of residents of long-term care facilities, and

WHEREAS, Those who receive the personal needs allowance, mainly senior citizens, depend on the \$50 monthly allotment to pay for everything from clothing, toiletries and hair care to the few luxuries they can allow themselves, such as telephone service, newspaper subscriptions or cable television service, and

WHEREAS, The real dollar value of the allowance has decreased dramatically in the intervening years and has negatively impacted quality of life issues for these nursing home residents, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature hereby requests the New York State Legislature and the Governor to enact legislation raising the personal needs allowance for residents of residential health care facilities who are receiving or eligible to receive Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income payments, 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*