Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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Legislator Day Submits Legislation Requesting Full Review of Medicaid Expenditures in Rockland County

New City, NY (May 6th, 2010) – The Rockland County Deputy Minority Leader Edwin Day (New City-Haverstraw), has submitted legislation calling for a full review of Medicaid spending in Rockland County.

"Medicaid expenditures represent an amount that is 110% of all the property taxes collected here in Rockland," said Day, "A number of issues have recently surfaced that demand an accounting and review of exactly how we approach spending local taxpayer dollars on this program."

A recent media article cited a 2007 study that determined 4% of the Medicaid enrollees nationwide were responsible for 50% of all Medicaid spending. Moreover, the report went on to identify that the N.Y. State Health Department, in a cost saving initiative, opted to pay a monthly fee for each person enrolled in a pilot program developed with a managed-care provider in Westchester that was designed to coordinate the medical and mental health care of 250 of the neediest Westchester residents.

Legislator Day added, "While I believe it is important to ensure all receive adequate health care regardless of their station in life or challenges they may be face, these numbers scream out for immediate attention. My question is what is being done by New York State to help us right here in Rockland, three full years after this report was issued?"

Legislator Day also observed that Governor Paterson is attempting, through his proposed budget, to alter the legislation passed in 2005 that placed a cap on local government Medicaid costs in order to bring some level of stability to the local property tax burden. This legislation was enacted in response to the local share of Medicaid costs rising from approximately $28 million to $62 million over eight years, a staggering 221%.

"The governor's continuing attack on the average taxpayer is not going unnoticed, and is no more than a continuation of the transference of the cost of State government onto the backs of our local taxpayers", said Legislator Day, adding that "Instead of looking for new ways to add to our tax burden, he should be looking at ways to save money by managing programs like Medicaid more efficiently."

This matter is scheduled to be heard in an upcoming committee meeting. Legislator Day has also asked for an update on current fraud identification procedures, particularly as it relates to the providers of Medicaid services, as typically that is where a great deal of fraud often occurs.

Legislator Day closed by saying that, "Over the past couple of years we have been dealing with, and facing down, the herculean challenges of our County budget. That has been a reality we all have had to deal with. We will do what we need to ensure our house is in order, which is why I am submitting this legislation. I expect the State to stop adding further stress on our local taxpayers through cutbacks, a failure to reimburse County taxpayers for expenditures on mandated programs, or poor management of programs like Medicaid that only increases costs to our Rockland taxpayers."

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