Memorandum in Support

S.5996 (Gipson)

AN ACT to amend the state finance law, in relation to providing additional funding to counties to cover the costs of unfunded state mandates; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof.

The New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) has reviewed the above referenced legislation and supports the passage of this bill into law.

This legislation creates the County Payment Relief Act to provide counties with a funding stream for state mandated programs. The payment created under this legislation would ensure the State shoulders at least partial financial responsibility for the mandated programs that counties are required to provide. By providing this funding, counties will have additional room in their budgets to fund local quality of life services that have been cut in recent years as the costs of mandates have grown.

NYSAC continues to call for reform of mandated programs through proposals such as this legislation in order to drive the costs down. Until such time as significant reforms can take place, the State should take action to provide counties with direct funding for these programs. Such payment reduces pressure on local property taxpayers and places the financial burden of these programs with the unit of Government that is responsible for their design and control.

It is for the abovementioned reasons that NYSAC supports the enactment of this legislation.

The New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC), founded in 1925, is a bi-partisan municipal association representing the counties of New York State. NYSAC is the only statewide association representing the interests of close to 5,000 elected and appointed county officials, including county executives, legislators, supervisors, administrators, commissioners and other county employees who deliver essential services to the public.

January 28, 2014
Senator Gipson
KV