

Bill No. 2568-06

No. 21-06-RE

A RESOLUTION

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, supporting Pennsylvania Senate Bill No. 1006, the "Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation Program Services and Supports Act," and encouraging the Senate to pass and the Governor to sign this legislation with all due speed.

WHEREAS, the care of Pennsylvanians with mental illness and mental retardation has been a core responsibility of State government for more than a century; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Act of 1966 established a community-based system of supports and services for people with mental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, since 1966 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has implemented a policy of de-institutionalization, shifting the focus of care from large State-operated facilities to small, community-based homes and services; and

WHEREAS, the community-based system today provides over \$3 billion of services annually to hundreds of thousands of people with mental illness or people with mental retardation; and

WHEREAS, the continued development and operation of this community-based system of supports and services requires the adoption by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania of a fiscal policy that consistently supports said system; and

WHEREAS, the value of the State's funding for this community-based system of supports and services has declined by over 33% during the past ten years, resulting in a significant erosion in the quality and quantity of services available through the community system; and

WHEREAS, since fiscal year 2002, there has not been any provision for a cost of living adjustment within Allegheny County's community-based mental health and mental retardation programs;

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives has already passed the Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation Program Services and Supports Act, which would require that funding be provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare for a yearly cost of living adjustment in community-based mental health and mental retardation programs; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Senate referred this legislation to the Appropriations Committee for review on March 20, 2006, but has not yet taken any other action on it;

The Council of the County of Allegheny hereby resolves as follows:

SECTION 1.

Allegheny County Council hereby expresses its wholehearted support for the action already taken by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in passing the Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation Program Services and Supports Act. Council further urges the Pennsylvania Senate to review and pass this legislation with all due speed, and also urges Governor Rendell to sign the Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation Program Services and Supports Act into law as soon as practicable.

SECTION 2.

Copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the County's representatives in the General Assembly and to the Office of the Governor.

SECTION 3.

If any provision of this Resolution shall be determined to be unlawful, invalid, void or unenforceable, then that provision shall be considered severable from the remaining provisions of this Resolution which shall be in full force and effect.

SECTION 4.

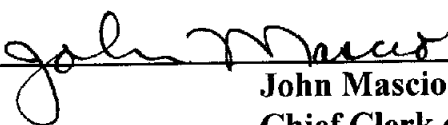
Any Resolution or Ordinance or part thereof conflicting with the provisions of this Resolution is hereby repealed so far as the same affects this Resolution.

***SPONSORED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS CLEARY, BURN, FINNERTY, FRAZIER,
and ROBINSON***

Enacted in Council, this 2nd day of May, 2006

Council Agenda No. 2568-06


Rich Fitzgerald
President of Council

Attest: 
John Mascio
Chief Clerk of Council

Chief Executive Office MAY 10, 2006

Approved: 
Dan Onorato
Chief Executive

Attest: 
Donna Beltz
Executive's Secretary