

PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Resolution #97

Introduced by Legislator: Amy Sayegh on behalf of the Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee at a Regular Meeting held on June 2, 2020.

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**APPROVAL/ OPPOSITION TO CUTS IN STATE MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING**

**WHEREAS, the Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc. (MHANYS), is a not-for-profit organization that provides support, education, and advocacy for mental health issues, works to end the stigma of mental illness, and promotes mental health wellness in New York State; and**

**WHEREAS, MHANYS serves well over a quarter of a million New Yorkers directly, as well as hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers by providing them training, educational resources, and technical assistance; and**

**WHEREAS, MHANYS has cautioned that the COVID-19 pandemic has not just had a physical impact, but that it is also having a very significant mental health impact through isolation and job loss; and**

**WHEREAS, these mental health impacts result in increased trauma, anxiety, depression, and other behavioral health issues like increased substance use, problem gambling, and domestic violence; and**

**WHEREAS, the death, loss, and bereavement of loved ones also has both short-term and long-term serious mental health consequences; and**

**WHEREAS, as Governor Andrew Cuomo stated in his briefing on May 1, 2020, COVID-19 has “caused serious mental health issues. You have anxiety, depression, insomnia, loneliness and feeling of isolation. ... Half of all Americans said that their mental health has been negatively impacted. Don’t underestimate the stress of the situation.”; and**

**WHEREAS, MHANYS has expressed great concern over the need for additional funding for mental health services, and advises that New York State’s updated financial plan identifies funding cuts that will have dramatic adverse impacts, including lost and delayed services such as supported housing programs, children’s mental health programs, mobile crisis teams, homeless services programs, peer services, family services, suicide prevention programs, medication assistance, clinics, care management and many other community programs that make up the spectrum of behavioral services including addiction disorders; now therefore be it**

State of New York

ss:

County of Putnam

**I hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution passed by the Putnam County Legislature while in session on June 2, 2020.**

Dated: June 4, 2020

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Diane Schonfeld**  
Clerk of the Legislature of Putnam County

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**RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature hereby express their opposition to any cuts by New York State to mental health services funding; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature hereby call upon the New York State Legislature and Governor Cuomo to avoid any decreases in State funding, and to seek additional federal funding, for mental health services throughout New York State; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Putnam County Legislature is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to our State representatives in the State Legislature as well as the Governor and leadership of our State Legislature.**

**BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**



State of New York

ss:

County of Putnam

I hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution passed by the Putnam County Legislature while in session on June 2, 2020.

Dated: June 4, 2020

Signed: *Diane Schonfeld*

**Diane Schonfeld**  
Clerk of the Legislature of Putnam County