

RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF THE COMPASSIONATE NEW YORK LEGISLATIVE AGENDA, WHICH ADDRESSES THREE INTERCONNECTED PUBLIC HEALTH CRISES, ULTIMATELY SAVING THOUSANDS OF LIVES AND BILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

Resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign the Compassionate New York Legislative Agenda: The New York Health Act (S5474), guaranteeing healthcare as a right to every New Yorker, regardless of immigration status; The Good Cause Eviction Act (S3082), affirming a tenant’s right to renew their lease and protecting them from unconscionable rent increases; The Fair and Timely Parole Act (S1415), granting discretionary parole reviews for eligible and community ready incarcerated people; The Elder Parole Act (S15A), granting parole for elderly incarcerated people; The Clean Slate Act (S.1553A), ensuring people are not punished beyond their sentences and can be full and fair participants in economic and civic life.

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz, Ulster County, New York, held via videoconference in said Town on the 20th day of May, 2021, at 7 o'clock P.M., prevailing time.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bettez, and upon roll being called, the following roll was taken:

	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Supervisor Neil Bettez	_____	_____
Council Member Daniel Torres	_____	_____
Council Member Alex Baer	_____	_____
Council Member David Brownstein	_____	_____
Council Member Julie Seyfert-Lillis	_____	_____

The following resolution was offered by Council Member _____ who moved its adoption, seconded by Council Member _____, to wit:

WHEREAS, all residents of New York State, regardless of economic, racial, religious, or ethnic background or immigration status ought to be granted the fundamental rights of healthcare, housing, due process, and personal freedom, and

WHEREAS, millions of residents of New York State are currently uninsured or underinsured, meaning that they go without the medical treatment they desperately need, or they will pay exorbitant costs through premiums, co-pays, and deductibles for the treatment they do receive, thus saddling them with an enormous amount of medical debt, and

WHEREAS, moving to a single-payer system would reduce healthcare costs by eliminating administrative waste and the profit incentives of insurance companies, as well by expanding preventative care, and therefore reducing the strain on hospitals and emergency rooms, and

WHEREAS, millions of New York families are currently at risk of eviction, are housing insecure, or are paying untenable shares of their income towards their housing needs, and

WHEREAS, affirming a renter’s right to renew their lease without good cause, as well as protecting them from undue rent increases, would help alleviate the fear of eviction felt by families across the state, as well as the \$2.2 billion in rental debt these families collectively owe, and

WHEREAS, the criminal legal system of the United States and the State of New York has in many cases been weaponized against those most marginalized, especially lower income people and people of color, and the system unduly emphasizes punishment and lengthy prison sentences instead of rehabilitation, and

WHEREAS, over 6,300 New Yorkers incarcerated in state prisons, comprising nearly 20% of the state prison population, have contracted COVID-19, posing a humanitarian crisis in an already immoral criminal legal system, and

WHEREAS, The New York State Parole Board annually denies thousands of incarcerated New Yorkers their freedom, punishing them, their families and communities for years and decades beyond their minimum sentence, and

WHEREAS, Millions of New Yorkers convicted of crime, after having served their prison sentences, continue to face discrimination: barriers to housing and jobs, and potential deportation and ICE detention, and

WHEREAS, Reforming the New York State Parole system would save New York State hundreds of millions of dollars annually, and allow formerly incarcerated people to fully integrate back into their communities,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz calls on the New York State Legislature to move forward the Compassionate New York Legislative Agenda: The New York Health Act (S5474), guaranteeing healthcare as a right to all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status; The Good Cause Eviction Act (S3082), affirming a tenant’s right to renew their lease and protecting them from unconscionable rent increases; The Fair and Timely Parole Act (S1415), granting discretionary parole reviews for eligible and community ready incarcerated people; The Elder Parole Act (S15A), granting parole for elderly incarcerated people; The Clean Slate Act (S.1553A), ensuring people are not punished beyond their sentences and can be full and fair participants in economic and civic life.

<u>VOTE</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Supervisor Neil Bettez	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Daniel Torres	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Alex Baer	_____	_____	_____
Council Member David Brownstein	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Julie Seyfert-Lillis	_____	_____	_____

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted.