



Press Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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For Immediate Release
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Democrats Tell County Executive to Drop Lawsuit

Rochester, New York – June 21, 2006: Minority Leader Carla Palumbo and members of the Democratic Caucus of the Monroe County Legislature held a press conference this morning to call for the immediate withdrawal of the Sales Tax Intercept lawsuit.

“This lawsuit threatens to sink our community into a divisive battle over revenue,” stated Palumbo, “It is the antithesis of a community solution.” The highly controversial lawsuit seeks pre-approval of Legislature President Wayne Zyra’s Medicaid Intercept proposal.

Elected officials throughout the county have been voicing strong concerns about the Intercept proposal, which could negatively impact the budgets of the city of Rochester and every single village, town, and school district in Monroe County. All told, local communities could see \$171 million diverted from their coffers to the State.

While the Intercept proposal has been presented coupled with a sales tax increase, not one provision within Zyra’s legislation or the County Executive’s lawsuit affirms that the Intercept will only be enacted if the State approves a sales tax increase.

“A community solution is achieved through cooperation, not litigation,” said Palumbo. “The county should work with the local municipalities to resolve this budget crisis. This lawsuit does nothing but pit the county against the city, towns, villages and school districts, wasting money and the chance for a meaningful discussion of other options.”

Democrats also announced their intention of holding two public hearings on their Blueprint for Progress, a proposal that considers innovative, long-term solutions to the County's fiscal crisis, solutions that are viable and sustainable, and do not raise county property or sales taxes.

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