RESOLUTION NO. 68-a

REQUESTING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND PURCHASING AGENT TO SEEK PROPOSALS FOR A PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAM FOR ALBANY COUNTY RESIDENTS

Introduced: 3/9/09
By Personnel Committee, Messrs. Morse, Infante, Ms. Lockart, Messrs. Carman, Horstmyer, Joyce, Mayo, Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Mendick, Ward, Aylward, Beston, Bullock, Ms. Chapman, Messrs. Clay, Clenahan, Commisso, Ms. Connolly, Messrs. Cotrofeld, Dawson, Domalewicz, Ethier, Gordon, Higgins, Houghtaling, Ms. Maffia-Tobler, Messrs. McCoy, Nichols, Rahm, Reilly, Scavo, Steck, Timmins and Ms. Willingham:

WHEREAS, By Resolution No. 528 for 2004, this Honorable Body requested the County to seek bid proposals to initiate a prescription drug discount card program, which resulted in no responses to a request for bids issued in 2005, and

WHEREAS, The cost of prescription drugs for those without insurance or who are underinsured can consume a significant portion of the household budget and force families to choose between medicines or everyday necessities, and

WHEREAS, As the nation's economy worsens and unemployment rolls soar, an increasing number of counties are responding to the high cost of prescription drugs by sponsoring drug discount card programs that offer residents average savings of 10-20% on brand-name drugs and 20-50% on generic drugs, and

WHEREAS, Through these programs, the discount cards are available free of charge to residents, who can use them at participating pharmacies in their neighborhoods or around the country to receive price reductions on prescription drugs, and

WHEREAS, The programs are provided at no cost to sponsoring counties or municipalities and are open to residents regardless of income, age or insurance plan, although they are used primarily by the uninsured or those whose insurance does not cover certain medications, and

WHEREAS, The Albany County Legislature continues to be desirous of initiating a program to provide affordable prescription medicines for Albany County residents, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature requests the County Executive and the County Purchasing Agent to again seek bid proposals to initiate a prescription drug discount card program for Albany County residents, and to solicit proposals from various providers of the drug discount programs, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Adopted by unanimous vote. 3/9/09