

# NEWS:



Edward A. Diana  
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## **DIANA COMMENTS ON 2012 STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS**

*Mandate relief mentioned, but lacks specifics yet again*

**(Goshen, NY)** – Orange County Executive Edward A. Diana made the following comments in response to the 2012 State of the State address New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo delivered today in Albany:

“Mandate relief remains the number one concern for local County Executives. Today, in his State of State address, the Governor mentioned the need for mandate relief, but yet again failed to offer any specifics on how his administration planned to accomplish this.

“The largest mandate faced by county governments is the New York State Medicaid Program. With a price tag of \$52 billion, now is the time to embrace reform and offer local governments relief from the local share of the Medicaid Program. In Orange County alone, Medicaid will cost our local property taxpayers \$73 million in 2012, and next year the cost will be \$75 million. Counties can no longer bear the burden of Medicaid and simply put, talk is no longer enough, we need action.

“In last year’s State of the State, the Governor used mandate relief as one of his central themes, and over the course of the past year, Counties remained cautiously optimistic that mandate relief was finally beginning to take center stage in Albany. Yet, with the passage of 2011, little details continue to exist on mandate relief. Not even mentioned in the Governor’s 2012 address today was the proposed legislation to place a hard cap on the local share of Medicaid to slowly decrease the Counties obligation to Medicaid.

“We support the Governor’s point that, ‘local governments deserve mandate relief,’ but without specifics we remain skeptical, as history has proven that it is easier to use mandate relief as a catchphrase rather than implement it as a policy.”

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