



COUNTY of FREDERICK

Board of Supervisors

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March 13, 2014

The Honorable Terry McAuliffe
Governor of Virginia
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Adoption of Two Year Biennium Budget beginning July 1, 2014

Dear Governor McAuliffe:

I am writing on behalf of the Frederick County Board of Supervisors to urge you and the members of the Virginia General Assembly to pass a budget. You will find attached a resolution adopted by the Frederick County Board of Supervisors formally requesting a budget be adopted as soon as practicable and urging you and the members of the General Assembly decouple the issue of Medicaid Expansion under the Affordable Care Act from the budget negotiations.

The longer you and the General Assembly delay passage of a budget, the more uncertainty surrounds the development and implementation of local government fiscal plans. The 81,000 residents of Frederick County depend on their local government to provide critical services. We, as a local government, receive 33% of our funding as direct aid from the Commonwealth. Failure to adopt a budget will result in the interruption of educational, public safety, and critical mental health services to our residents.

The expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act is a very complicated issue with strong opinions held by both sides, for and against. Given the divisiveness of this issue, it would be best to convene a separate legislative session to consider this initiative. Local governments and their fiscal plans should not be used as leverage in the Medicaid expansion debate.

As Governor of Virginia, we are looking to you to provide the needed leadership to ensure that the General Assembly performs its foremost duty of passing a budget.

Sincerely, -

Richard C. Shickle
Chairman

RCS/jet

Enclosure



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA AND THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO TIMELY PASS A CLEAN BUDGET

WHEREAS, each year the foremost duty of the Virginia General Assembly is to pass a budget or budget amendments that serve as Virginia's financial blueprint for each fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, Virginia is consistently recognized for its sound fiscal management and budgetary practices as illustrated by its AAA bond rating and the strong bond ratings of many local government divisions throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the County of Frederick is currently in the process of developing and adopting its budget for the upcoming fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Frederick County Board of Supervisors relies on the timely passage of a budget to allocate funding to local government services and make policy and hiring decisions for the upcoming fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, 81,000 residents of Frederick County depend on county government to provide critical services such as education and public safety; and

WHEREAS, failure to pass a timely budget will result in uncertainty for the County of Frederick, which receives over 33% of its funding as direct aid from the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Frederick County School Board relies on the timely passage of the state budget in order to set its budget and make staffing decisions, which includes teacher contracts; and

WHEREAS, interruption of the provision of educational services to Frederick County students will have a significant negative impact on students and families; and

WHEREAS, the interruption of public safety services would likely result in the loss of property, serious injury, or loss of life for Frederick County citizens; and

WHEREAS, critical mental health services to Frederick County residents are provided via funds that flow from the state budget through county, and

WHEREAS, the Virginia General Assembly adjourned sine die on Saturday, March 8, 2014 without adopting a budget for the two year biennium beginning July 1, 2014.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Frederick County Board of Supervisors, that the Governor of Virginia and the Virginia General Assembly are urged to pass a budget as soon as practicable to ensure the continued functioning of state and local governments; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the issue of Medicaid Expansion under the Affordable Care Act should be decoupled from budget negotiations and considered in a separate legislative session to facilitate prompt passage of a state budget; and,


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Frederick County Board of Supervisors shall transmit copies of this resolution to the Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the members of the Virginia General Assembly so that they may be apprised of the sense of the Frederick County Board of Supervisors in this matter.

ADOPTED this 12th day of March, 2014.

VOTE:

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Richard C. Shickle | <u>Aye</u> | Christopher E. Collins | <u>Aye</u> |
| Gary A. Lofton | <u>Aye</u> | Gene E. Fisher | <u>Aye</u> |
| Robert A. Hess | <u>Aye</u> | Charles S. DeHaven, Jr. | <u>Aye</u> |
| Robert W. Wells | <u>Aye</u> | | |

A COPY TESTE:



John R. Riley, Jr.
Clerk, Board of Supervisors
County of Frederick, Virginia

RESOLUTION NO.: 038-14