

**Town of Fine**

**Resolution # 08/2016-**

**OPPOSING SENATE PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE MEDICARE STATE HEALTH  
INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SHIP)**

**WHEREAS**, the US Senate Appropriation Committee has approved a Fiscal Year 2017 budget appropriation bill that completely eliminates funding for the Medicare State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), and

**WHEREAS**, the SHIP network provides critical information upon which people with Medicare rely to make informed decisions about their enrollment and coverage options, and

**WHEREAS**, eliminating SHIP would leave millions of older Americans, people with disabilities, and caregivers without assistance in trying to navigate the complexities of Medicare, and

**WHEREAS**, for more than twenty-four years, SHIPs have advised, educated and empowered individuals to navigate their state-specific Medicare choices; in addition, helping beneficiaries resolve fraud and abuse issues, billing problems, appeals, and enrollment in low-income health assistance programs, and

**WHEREAS**, there are over 23,000 seniors in St. Lawrence County and the Office of the Aging's Health Insurance Information, Counseling, and Assistance Program (HIICAP) assists over 5,000 client contacts each year, and

**WHEREAS**, currently the Office of the Aging receives \$38,068 from New York State and \$11,254 from the Federal Government in funding, which only allows for one program coordinator to assist the vast number of clients in the County, and

**WHEREAS**, cuts to this program would threaten the economic security and health of all Medicare beneficiaries and have an unfortunate effect on senior citizens in St. Lawrence County,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fine Town Board opposes Senate Proposal to eliminate Medicare State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Andrew Cuomo, US Senator Charles Schumer, US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, US Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, Senator Joseph Griffo, and Assemblyman Marc Butler.