

March 26, 2013

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
REPORT NO. 5

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

CHAIR GRANT PRESENT AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

1. RESOLVED, the following items are hereby received and filed:
  - a. COMM. 26M-4 (2012)  
**CHAIR, ECMCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** “Copy of Letter to County Executive Concerning ECMCC Board of Directors' Appointment”  
(6-0)
  - b. COMM. 3M-9 (2013)  
**LESLIE BRILL:** “Letter to Legislator Mazur Concerning the Death of Amanda Wienckowski”  
(6-0)
  - c. COMM. 4D-5 (2013)  
**COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES:** “Response Letter Concerning Attendance at Health & Human Services Committee Meeting”  
(6-0)
  - d. COMM. 5M-3 (2013)  
**CARL PALADINO:** “Copy of Letter Concerning Autopsy from the Death of Amanda Wienckowski”  
(6-0)
2. INTRO 6-7 (2013)  
**GRANT, MAZUR, HOGUES,  
MARINELLI, LOUGHRAN,  
DIXON & LORIGO** **AS AMENDED**  
WHEREAS, on March 13, 2013, the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel, chaired by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, held a hearing on sexual violence in the military; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense has estimated that approximately 19,000 military sexual assaults occurred in 2011, yet only 2,439 unrestricted reports were filed, with only 240 proceeding to trial; and

WHEREAS, contrary to popular belief, the actual incidence of sexual violence in numbers is higher among men in the military than women, though a higher percentage of women in the military have

reported that they have been traumatized, with sexual violence considered to be the leading cause of PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) among women veterans; and

WHEREAS, given the fact that sexual violence within our Armed Forces results in prosecution only 10% of the time, the psychological, physical and emotional toll it takes on the victims can be viewed as a destabilizing force among our military, potentially affecting the morale of fighting units where victims fear retaliation, punishment and additional harm from individuals who wear the same uniform as they do; and

WHEREAS, the low rate of prosecution no doubt has lead to the statistic whereby 47% of service members are too afraid to report their assaults; and

WHEREAS, the United States Senate’s movement toward an emphasis on institutional accountability and the prosecution of cases among the Armed Forces is a value shared by Democratic and Republican Senators alike.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature go on record to support the bipartisan efforts underway in the United States Senate to achieve a zero tolerance reality with regard to military sexual violence and trauma; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the matter of Military Sexual Violence and Trauma be discussed at an upcoming meeting of the Erie County Legislature’s VALER4Valor ad hoc committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be conveyed to President Barack Obama, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, the Government Affairs Committee and the VALER4Valor ad hoc committee of the Erie County Legislature, and all others deemed necessary and proper.  
(6-0)

3. COMM. 6E-11 (2013)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**  
WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Health provides forensic medical services through the Office of the Medical Examiner; and

WHEREAS, the need for expert pathological skills is critical for the function of the medical examiner’s office; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Medical Examiner’s office provides crucial support and determinations to the law enforcement community; and

WHEREAS, as such, the Department of Health is requesting authorization to fill the vacant title of Associate Chief Medical Examiner at a variable minimum; and

WHEREAS, funding for these changes is already available in the 2013 enacted budget with a net savings to the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the hiring of one Associate Chief Medical Examiner, Job Group 22, at a variable minimum hiring level of Step 4 (annual salary \$129,453); and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution will be forwarded to the County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Department of Personnel, the Division of Budget and Management, and to Commissioner Gale R. Burstein in the Erie County Department of Health.  
(6-0)

**THOMAS J. MAZUR**  
**CHAIR**