

1929

Year

565

Chapter

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No. of printed bills 1

No. of exposures 23

State of New York  
In Senate

MAR 14 1929

*Ordered, That the Clerk deliver the bill entitled:*

SENATE

No. 1346

Int. 333

AN ACT

*In relation to the public welfare, constituting chapter  
forty-two of the consolidated laws*

*to the Assembly and request its concurrence in  
the same.*

*By order*

*A. M. Wellman,  
Clerk.*

# IN ASSEMBLY

MAR 18

1929

Passed without amendments  
By order of Assembly

*Fred B. Hammond*  
CLERK

Interpines  
Portville, New York

Gouverneur Roosevelt

Dear Sir;

Being much  
interested in all welfare  
legislation, with many  
other persons in this  
part of Western New York,  
I rejoice that the Keenan-  
Shank Public Welfare  
Bill has passed both  
houses of the Legislature,  
and I earnestly hope



that you will proceed to  
make this bill a law,  
by your signature

Very truly

(Miss) Lilla C. Wheeler

WILLIAM H. GRATWICK  
PRESIDENT  
STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES

VICTOR F. RIDDER  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES

CHARLES H. JOHNSON  
DIRECTOR OF  
STATE CHARITIES



*Council*

STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF CHARITIES

ALBANY

January 16, 1929

*A 333  
9 561*

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Governor of the State of New York  
Executive Chamber  
Albany, New York

My dear Governor Roosevelt:

The copy of the draft of the proposed  
Public Welfare Law which you sent to me for consideration  
has been received. May I say that the draft of the  
law is not yet completed and that there are two or three  
days work to be done on it. As soon as it is completed  
I shall report to you on the matter, with recommendations,  
as you request.

Respectfully yours

*Charles H. Johnson*  
Director of State Charities

CHJ M

# Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America

[Incorporated]

105 EAST TWENTY-SECOND STREET

NEW YORK

S. PARKES CADMAN, PRESIDENT  
CHARLES S. MACFARLAND  
SAMUEL MCCREA CAVERT  
JOHN M. MOORE  
GENERAL SECRETARIES  
FRANK H. MANN, TREASURER

## Commission on the Church and Social Service

FRANCIS J. MCCONNELL, CHAIRMAN  
HAROLD A. HATCH, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
WORTH M. TIPPY, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
JAMES MYERS, INDUSTRIAL SECRETARY

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Governor, State of New York  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York

Dear Sir:

It has not been possible as yet for the Federal Council of Churches to act upon the proposed bill No. 593, entitled "An act in relation to the public welfare, constituting chapter forty-two of the consolidated laws."

*However, I wish to say personally, that*  
The proposed legislation is of great importance, and the drafting of the text of the bill illustrates admirably the experience and carefulness with which all welfare bills should be drawn.

I am especially impressed with certain features of the bill which seem to me to be of great value, namely:

The creation of County Commissioners of Welfare;  
The appointment of Town Public Welfare Officers;  
Provision for investigation of applicants for relief,  
and the establishment of a system of oversight over such badly adjusted individuals and homes in order to restore them to self-support and independence;

The defining of responsibility as between the present overlapping of departments and officials dealing with welfare problems.

The bill if passed will be a great advance in a state which is becoming notable for its welfare service. It should result in saving to the tax-payer, in better administration, and - most important of all - in better service to these unfortunate individuals and homes, which, after all, is our chief concern.

I bespeak, in behalf of the churches, for your personal support of the measure.

Very sincerely yours,

*Worth M. Tippy*

Worth M. Tippy

T:W

6

WILLIAM H. GRATWICK  
PRESIDENT  
STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES

VICTOR F. RIDDER  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES

CHARLES H. JOHNSON  
DIRECTOR OF  
STATE CHARITIES



STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF CHARITIES

ALBANY February 13, 1929

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Governor of the State of New York  
Executive Chamber  
Albany, New York

My dear Governor:

The bill providing for the new Public Welfare Law which is to take the place of what for generations has been known as the Poor Law has now been introduced in the Legislature and in the Senate is Bill, Int. 333, and in the Assembly, Bill, Int. 561.

In accordance with your request made some days ago, we have prepared an analysis of this bill which will give you the important changes that have been made. There has long been a recognition on the part of all who have been interested in the welfare work of the State that the Poor Law should be amended and that the amendment should be a very thorough one. The bill as at present before the Legislature is not in all parts what many of the social workers of the State would like to have it, but it has been found after several years of effort that a bill containing such provisions as to many seemed desirable would not succeed in passing the Legislature. The present bill, therefore, contains what is considered to be essential and also what, after many conferences, is likely to be satisfactory to the members of the Legislature. The bill has the endorsement of the State Department of Charities. If at any time you desire further information relative to it, we shall be glad to be at your service.

Respectfully yours

*Charles H. Johnson*

Director of State Charities

CHJ M

# MEMORANDUM

by

## STATE DEPARTMENT OF CHARITIES

In the matter of the proposed Public Welfare Law, Senate Bill, Int. 333, or Assembly Bill, Int. 561, to take the place of the present Poor Law

The draft of the proposed law represents a complete re-writing of the present Poor Law. The general principles involved are in large part retained, though a more orderly arrangement of the provisions has been attempted. Among the provisions which are retained or are changed only slightly the following are mentioned:

1. Relationship to other laws. The proposed new law does not attempt to supplant the existing authority or jurisdiction of other agencies, including boards of child welfare, children's courts, and departments of education and health, which have definite functions with relation to children. (See section 14).
2. Cities. The jurisdiction and authority of cities under charters or other special laws, whether they are separate poor law districts or form part of the general county plan in the care of the poor, are preserved. (See sections 13 and 27). The cities of New York, Kingston, Oswego and Poughkeepsie, and the City and Town of Newburgh, which, under existing laws care for their own poor independent of any county and have their own almshouses, retain their separate identity with all existing powers. (See sections 31 and 32).
3. Town overseers. The authority of overseers of the poor in towns is continued, though somewhat reduced, except in counties in which the board of supervisors may determine that the administration of all relief within the county shall be through a county official. (See sections 24, 25 (1), 26, and 27).
4. County commissioners of public welfare. The superintendent of the poor of a county, under the name of commissioner of public welfare, continues to be elected or appointed as now provided by law, though he is given larger responsibility for the supervision of relief given in the towns, particularly with reference to children and to adults needing institutional care.
5. Authority of boards of supervisors to abolish or revive distinction between town and county poor. Boards of supervisors continue to have authority to determine whether particular classes of persons receiving relief shall be a county or a town charge. (See section 26).

6. Almshouses. The administration and control of almshouses, to be known as county homes, city homes, and town homes, remain substantially as at present. The responsibility of officials with reference to these institutions is, however, more clearly defined. (See sections 90-99).

7. State Department of Charities. The responsibility and authority of the State Department of Charities in the supervision of public relief, while more clearly defined, is not changed in any essential respect. (See sections 138-142).

8. State Charities Aid Association. The right given the State Charities Aid Association to visit public homes through a duly appointed representative remains unchanged. (See section 143).

The most important changes have to do with the following:

1. Elimination of obsolete and unnecessary special laws. The bill is an attempt to present the subject matter in a more orderly arrangement than the present Poor Law which has added many accretions in its history, and a long list of obsolete special laws are repealed, thus reducing the provisions affecting particular counties, cities or towns to a minimum consistent with a practical application of the statute.

2. Town overseers. The overseer of the poor of a town is made appointive, and his direct responsibility is limited to granting outdoor, or family, relief, and to assisting the county commissioner in cases living or having a settlement in his town. It is further provided that in counties which may now, or which may hereafter determine through their boards of supervisors, that all relief shall be a county charge, the position of overseer may be eliminated. (See sections 25, 26 and 27).

3. Institutional relief and care of children away from their homes made a county or city problem. Institutional relief for adults, and the care of children away from their own homes, are made subject to the approval of the county commissioner (or city commissioner in case of cities responsible for the administration and cost of such care), and not left to the judgment of town overseers whose experience in such matters is usually very limited. The cost of such institutional care and care of children provided by the county is made a county expense in the first instance whether or not the amount is charged back under a resolution of the board of supervisors to towns or cities comprising such county.

4. Settlement laws. The provisions concerning settlement of poor persons, while not changed in principle are more clearly outlined, and the responsibility for relief of a poor person having a settlement within the state is made dependent upon settlement in all cases, whereas in the existing law a person becoming poor in one county and having a settlement in another county is usually a charge on the county where he may happen to be

5. State poor, including Indian poor. Whereas the existing law makes all Indian poor persons state poor, and the cost of relief paid from funds appropriated to the State Department of Charities, it is proposed that Indians who are permanently resident outside of a reservation be cared for as other poor persons. The provision in section 65 (2), reading "Any Indian poor person who has resided upon any Indian reservation in this state for at least six months during the year prior to application for public relief and care", still leaves the Indians who maintain their homes on the reservations as state poor. The change is proposed in the belief that Indians not residing on the reservation should be encouraged to consider themselves as having all the rights and all the responsibilities of white persons. Slight changes in the provisions concerning the care of state poor (including Indian poor) permit a more workable plan for their care. For example, it is proposed that state poor be cared for in any almshouse rather than requiring them to be sent to particular almshouses as at present (see section 67), and if not proper subjects for admission to an almshouse their care "as other persons in need" is permitted. (See section 68).

6. Children. The article on children (see sections 103-111), more clearly outlines the duties and authority of poor law officials for children not under the jurisdiction of boards of child welfare or children's courts, and the sections covering this subject will serve as guides to public relief officials in their handling of ~~cases~~.

7. The blind. The provisions with relation to the blind (see sections 113-115), have the approval of the State Commission for the Blind and more nearly conform to the present laws covering the blind.

8. Veteran relief. While more simply stated than the present law, this article is not materially changed. Suggestions made by representatives of the American Legion and other veteran organizations have been incorporated and so far as we know there is now no objection to the provisions from these sources. (See sections 117-121).

9. Responsibility of relatives. In the article concerning the powers of public welfare officials to enforce support, some slight changes from the existing laws have been made; for example, relatives responsible for the support of a poor person are made to include husband, wife, father, mother, grandparent, child and grandchild, and step-parents are in like manner made responsible for the support of minor step-children. A public welfare official is, moreover, authorized to lay claim in certain cases to insurance payable to the estate of a person who has received relief. (see sections 125-133).

In the miscellaneous provisions (sections 147-156), some desirable features of special laws applicable to certain cities, towns or counties have been incorporated, but none of these include radical changes.



SARAH SHAFFER, PRESIDENT  
1328 ABBOTT ROAD  
MATILDA FARRELL, VICE-PRESIDENT  
333 ELMWOOD AVENUE  
MARGARET HARDY, 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT  
NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.  
MATILDA UEBELHOER, FIN. SEC'Y.  
BOX 142, EBENEZER, N. Y.

EVA H. TRUESDALE, SECRETARY  
49 POTTER AVENUE  
ORCHARD PARK, N. Y.  
MINNIE P. HULBURD, TREASURER  
117 SCHOOL STREET  
NELLIE B. SKINNER, BLD'G. FUND TREAS.  
3154 DELAWARE AVENUE, KENMORE

# Protestant Home For Unprotected Children

Incorporated

605 NIAGARA STREET, COR. JERSEY

Buffalo, N. Y.

MABEL K. MALLORY  
SUPERINTENDENT

ENDORSED BY  
STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES  
BUFFALO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

TUPPER 6098 PHONES TUPPER 6097

Buffalo, N.Y. Feb. 19, 1929.

Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Governor State of New York,  
Albany, N.Y.

Dear Honorable Sir:-

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of this Home held today, it was decided that we are not in favor of the proposed amendment as specified in the Fearon Bill which we understand will be up for action in the near future. We may also add that the present administration is perfectly agreeable to this Board as any change made now would not be of any adequate benefit to our Home.

Respectfully submitted,

The Board of Directors,

Per. *Matilda S. Uebelhorn*

*Jan. Seely*

5-333-2561



THOMAS E. LAWRENCE  
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW  
431-435 MARINE TRUST BUILDING  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

March 19, 1929.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Albany, New York.

Re: Fearon-Schonk Welfare Bill

My dear Governor:

I desire to protest against the signing of this bill as affecting Erie County.

As far as Erie County is concerned, I understand that this is an effort on the part of certain politicians to take away from the present Commissioner of Charities and Corrections in this county the control of the Welfare Department, and to make it possible to appoint another Commissioner.

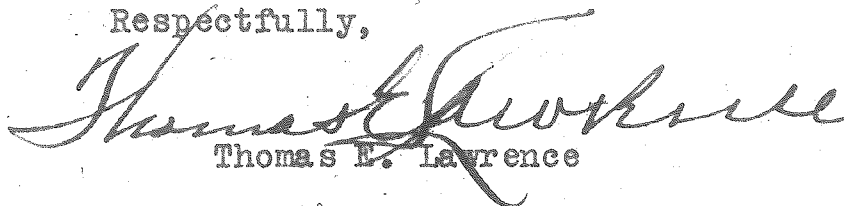
The present Commissioner of Charities and Corrections in this county, Leo Schmidt, was regularly elected to fill this office and one of his duties included the supervision of the Erie County Welfare Department.

No condition has arisen requiring that this department be taken away from him, and no condition has arisen requiring the appointment of a new Commissioner for that particular department.

Westchester County is identical with Erie County in the function of its Commissioner of Charities and Corrections and the Bill excepts Westchester County and it should except Erie County.

I was a member of the Board of Supervisors in this County for ten years and am thoroughly familiar with the operation of the department of the Commissioner of Charities and Corrections, and I urge that you withhold approval from this Bill for the reason stated.

Respectfully,



Thomas E. Lawrence

TEL/S

# Social Service Commission

RT. REV. A. S. LLOYD, D.D. [EX. OFFICIO]

DIocese OF NEW YORK

ELECTED BY THE ARCHDEACONRIES

ELECTED BY CONVENTION

416 LAFAYETTE STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE SPRING 9970

BRONX—HON. JAMES A. HAMILTON

DUTCHESS—REV. MAXWELL W. RICE

HUDSON—REV. SAMUEL W. BRISCOE

RAMAPO—MRS. CHAS. P. BISPHAM

RICHMOND—REV. L. M. A. HAUGWOUT

WESTCHESTER—REV. WM. N. COLTON

CLASS OF 1929  
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HON. ROBERT MCC. MARSH  
MRS. ALLEN WARDWELL

REV. CHAS. K. GILBERT, D. D.  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

CLASS OF 1930  
REV. W. RUSSELL BOWIE, D. D.  
JOHN B. WALKER, M. D.  
MRS. HENRY GODDARD LEACH

Feb. 27, 1929.

S-333  
a-561 3/1

CLASS OF 1931  
REV. MELFORD L. BROWN  
MR. CHARLES C. BURLINGHAM  
MRS. V. G. SIMKHOVITCH

CLASS OF 1932  
REV. ROELIF H. BROOKS, D. D.  
MR. FREDERIC A. BURLINGAME  
MRS. ARTHUR G. CHOATE

Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Albany,  
N. Y.

Dear Governor Roosevelt:

I enclose herewith a copy of a resolution  
unanimously adopted at the last meeting of our  
Social Service Commission, which represents the  
Episcopal Churches of the Diocese of New York.

May I add that this action is based  
upon careful study of the proposed Welfare Law  
and the recommendation of our Legislative Committee  
which consists of the Hon. George W. Wickersham,  
John M. Glenn, head of the Sage Foundation and  
others of similar character and standing.

I know I speak for the members of our  
Commission and its Legislative Committee when I  
express the earnest hope that you will do what you  
can to secure the enactment of this proposed  
Welfare Law.

Respectfully yours,

enc.

CKG:MG

The Social Service Commission of the Diocese of New York at its regular meeting on February 18th, 1929 adopted the following resolution:

"In view of the recommendation of our Legislative Committee, based upon its careful study of the proposals submitted to the Legislatures of 1927 and 1928, looking to the modernizing of the present archaic Poor Law of the State,

Be it resolved: That this Commission endorse the principles and provisions of the Fearon-Shonk bill (S. 333; A. 561) which, we are persuaded, would insure more adequate and constructive care for the poor, wiser expenditure of public funds, helpful co-ordination of the duties of town, city and county officials, and permit the application of approved modern methods in the relief of the destitute.

Be it further resolved: That the Executive Secretary be instructed to communicate this action to the appropriate officials in Albany and to take such steps as may seem to him wise in enlisting the support of the Churches for this measure."

LIBERTY BANK OF BUFFALO

BUFFALO, N.Y.

OLIVER CABANA, JR.  
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 19, 1929

5333  
151

*Mr. Griffin*

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Governor, Executive Mansion  
Albany, N. Y.

My dear Governor:

You will have before you shortly a bill known as the Fearon & Shunk Bill, making certain changes in the poor departments of the state, and I am writing to ask you to veto that measure if such veto would be consistent with your views in the matter.

Some years ago Erie County segregated all its penal and welfare institutions under a single Commissioner, who became known as the Commissioner of Charities and Corrections. Up to that time we had separate heads for the Poor Department, the County Home and Hospital and the Penitentiary. The present Commissioner of Charities and Corrections obtained his nomination and election in opposition to the existing Republican organization of this County. Since that time he has been harassed in every way possible with a view to destroying him politically.

Erie County has met in a very practical way the purposes for which this bill is ostensibly drawn. A similar condition to ours exists in another County in the State. I am not sure whether that is your own County of Westchester or not. In any event, in that other County no effort is made by this bill to change the existing situation, but here it is proposed to materially weaken the present Commissioner, and, I am told, this move is entirely because of political animosity.

This measure in practically the same form was <sup>stopped</sup> ~~vetoed~~ by the Governor last year, I believe, because of the same provisions that are now incorporated in the measure.

Thanking you in advance for your kindly consideration of this request, believe me

Very truly yours,

*Oliver Cabana, Jr.*

Oliver Cabana, Jr.

OCJr-IL

15

Gasport March 20 - 1861

Governor Russell A 561

Dear Sir

I Hope you will veto  
the Fearor Shark Bill  
as it is no good the  
Poor old Folks would not  
have eney thing onley what  
they had to beg for if they  
wanted a little coal or a  
loaf of Bread they would  
have to go to the County  
Superintendent. And they wold  
sen the coal wot whit would  
last perhaps about 10 day

As the State is able  
to build Parks for the  
rich and make the poor  
help pay the as you know  
the poor cannot visit the  
Parks and would the so  
pay the taxes on an old  
Folk's Home. No

Now for the love of Willie  
Veto the Shock Bill  
Excuse me for taking the  
liberty of writing

Excuse Me states Sincerely  
Yours A D Triffo  
Grapport  
N.Y.



# STATE CHARITIES AID ASSOCIATION

CHILD PLACING  
 COUNTY CHILDREN'S AGENCIES  
 ASSISTING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN  
 SOCIAL WELFARE LEGISLATION



MENTAL HYGIENE (STATEWIDE)  
 TUBERCULOSIS AND PUBLIC HEALTH  
 (EXCLUSIVE OF NEW YORK CITY)  
 VISITATION OF PUBLIC CHARITABLE  
 INSTITUTIONS (NEW YORK CITY AND STATE)

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ELIHU ROOT		<i>Honorary</i>
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JOHN G. AGAR	}	<i>Vice-Presidents</i>
CHELLIS A. AUSTIN		
MISS RUTH MORGAN		
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GEORGE A. HASTINGS	}	<i>Assistant Secretaries</i>
MISS H. IDA CURRY		
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STANLEY P. DAVIES		
MISS ELSIE M. BOND		

105 EAST 22ND STREET  
 NEW YORK

+  
 Telephone Gramercy 1454

BOARD OF MANAGERS

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CHARLES E. HUGHES	OWEN D. YOUNG

March 21, 1929.

Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
 Executive Chamber,  
 Albany, N. Y.

Dear Governor Roosevelt:

The Public Welfare Bill, (Senate Int. 333 Print 1346 by Mr. Fearon; Assembly Int. 561 Print 1856 by Mr. Shonk) which would replace the State's out-worn poor law, having passed both Houses of the Legislature unanimously, is now before you for action. This bill, as you know, was drafted jointly by the State Board of Charities, the Legislative Committee of the State Association of County Superintendents of the Poor and Poor Law Officials, and the State Charities Aid Association, and thus represents a consensus of informed opinion on this subject. This measure has been unopposed and has had strong State-wide support from many organizations and individuals. In view of all these facts and your own desire to improve the administration of public welfare throughout the State, we feel sure that after such enquiries as you may wish to make, you will be disposed to make this forward-looking measure a law.

Inasmuch as many features of the bill are permissive in form, much would remain to be done in an educational way following its enactment, to secure the adoption of centralized

Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt---2.

March 21, 1929.

county welfare units. Would it not be of great assistance in calling public attention to the merits of the new law, if representatives of the three organizations which originally sponsored the measure, and perhaps some others, might be present in the Executive Chamber if and when you affix your signature. If this suggestion meets with your approval, and, if your secretary will inform me as far as possible in advance, as to the time when the bill would come before you for action, we will take care of all the needful notifications and arrangements.

Sincerely yours,

*Anna Focks*  
Secretary.



PRESIDENT  
LEO M. DOODY  
ALBANY, N. Y.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT  
GEORGE J. WERNER  
EAST VIEW, N. Y.

TREASURER  
JAMES S. PETHYBRIDGE  
AUBURN, N. Y.

SECRETARY  
LEON D. DEXTER  
SYRACUSE, N. Y.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT  
FRANK POLLOCK  
BUFFALO, N. Y.

ASSOCIATION  
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE POOR  
AND  
POOR LAW OFFICERS  
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
[INCORPORATED]

March 21st, 1929.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Executive Chamber, Capitol,  
Albany, N. Y.

My dear Governor:-

As President of the Association of County Superintendents of the Poor and Poor Law Officers of the State of New York, an organization which includes all the active county and city Poor Law Officials of the State, I was directed at the Mid-Winter Conference of the Association held February 26th and 27th, to place the organization on record as in favor of the Fearon-Shonk Public Welfare Bill which has been passed by the legislature and is now in your hands.

May I say to you that this is not a merely perfunctory approval as the Association has followed this measure for the past three years and previous to its recent amendments had gone on record as opposed to the Bill; this despite the fact that its own legislative committee had been active in the preparation of this Bill and had given its full approval. In its present form, however, the Association went on record as unanimously in its favor.

Respectfully yours,

*Leo M. Doody*

President.

IMD:HAC

LAW OFFICES OF  
**ISAAC ADLER**  
1144-1154 LINCOLN-ALLIANCE BANK BLDG.  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

March 22, 1929.

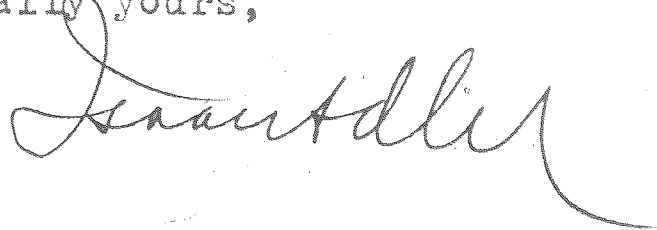
Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Governor of the State of New York,  
Albany, New York.

My dear Governor Roosevelt:-

I am writing to urge you to sign the Public Welfare Bill which I am told has unanimously passed both Houses of the Legislature. I believe that this bill marks a most important step in advance in public welfare administration and feel no doubt that it will receive your hearty approval.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate you upon the splendid fight you are making for public welfare measures as well as for the type of administration you are giving to the people of the state?

Cordially yours,



A:B

# THE NEW YORK SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

105 EAST TWENTY-SECOND STREET  
NEW YORK

March the twenty-second  
1929

PORTER R. LEE, DIRECTOR  
WALTER W. PETTIT, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
MARGARET LEAL, SECRETARY  
ETHEL T. ALLISON, SECRETARY  
DOROTHY EVANS, REGISTRAR

5333

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Governor of the State of New York  
Albany, New York

My dear Governor Roosevelt:

I write to express my very great personal and professional satisfaction over the news that both houses of the State Legislature have passed the Public Welfare Bill, making it possible for counties to replace the ancient Poor Law of the state with a modern, workable statute. I write to urge you to crown this very much delayed and far-reaching permissive act of legislation with your signature.

Sincerely yours,



HENRY W. THURSTON

HWT-BA

THE BUFFALO FOUNDATION

714 MARINE TRUST BUILDING

BUFFALO, N. Y.

SECRETARY  
SEYMOUR H. KNOX

DIRECTOR\*  
FRANCES M. HOLLINGSHEAD, M. D.

5333

March 22, 1929

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Governor of New York State  
Albany, New York

Honorable Sir:

As one of a large group of social workers in the State who have been, for the past three years and more, interested in the clarification of the Old Poor Law and in the substitution of a modern Public Welfare Bill, may I ask that the Public Welfare Bill now before you be given your favorable consideration.

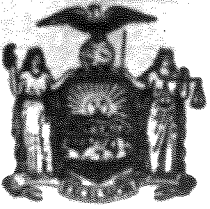
I have little doubt that you do approve of this great advance in the administration of public relief possible under the provisions of this proposed legislation, and because of this I feel that it is rather superfluous to ask for your favorable consideration of the Bill.

Respectfully yours

*Frances M. Hollingshead M. D.*

Director

1-1



STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF CHARITIES

ALBANY March 22, 1929

S333

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Governor of the State of New York  
Executive Chamber  
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

There is before you for approval Senate Bill Int. 333, Print No. 1346, which has passed both branches of the Legislature. This bill proposes to enact a Public Welfare Law, and repeal the present Poor Law and a number of special laws affecting individual towns and counties which would, if the proposed Public Welfare Law is signed, be covered by the general law.

The State Department of Charities is heartily in favor of the enactment of the proposed Public Welfare Law, and the Board at its meeting held February 19, 1929, unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas, a bill now under consideration by the State Legislature (Senate Int. 333, Pr. 341, Mr. Fearon; and Assembly, Int. 561, Pr. 593, Mr. Shonk) proposes to repeal the present Poor Law and many special laws affecting particular counties, cities and towns, and to enact in place thereof a new law to be known as the Public Welfare Law, and

"Whereas, existing laws affecting the care of the poor in the State, contain many provisions enacted early in the history of the State, with changes and amendments made from time to time, and lack clearness and uniformity, and

"Whereas, the State Board of Charities recognizes the need of supplanting the present antiquated Poor Law provisions by a comprehensive and unified law and has already placed itself on record as favoring a

centralization of public relief and care in each county of the State in one county public relief official, which provision was included in a former bill having like purpose, be it therefore

"Resolved, that while the State Board of Charities would favor a mandatory provision requiring such county centralization of authority and responsibility, it hereby expresses its hearty approval of the permissive measures contained in the present bill and of the other features of the proposed new Welfare Law, and

"Resolved, that the Director of State Charities be and hereby is directed to communicate with the Legislative committees having these bills under consideration urging the passage of the proposed Public Welfare Law."

A memorandum concerning the first draft of this bill was prepared and sent to you on February 13, 1929. A copy of such memorandum is attached hereto. The re-print of the bill which received the approval of the Legislature makes certain necessary corrections but does not change the general principles involved, and this Department is still of the opinion that the bill should become a law and that its approval by you will complete one of the most important pieces of legislation attempted in recent years. If further details are desired concerning the bill or its effect upon the counties, cities and towns and the officials thereof with whom this Department is in constant touch, I would appreciate your so advising us.

Respectfully yours,



Director of State Charities

Enclosure

MEMORANDUM

by

STATE DEPARTMENT OF CHARITIES

In the matter of the proposed Public Welfare Law, Senate Bill, Int. 333, or Assembly Bill, Int. 561, to take the place of the present Poor Law.

The draft of the proposed law represents a complete re-writing of the present Poor Law. The general principles involved are in large part retained, though a more orderly arrangement of the provisions has been attempted. Among the provisions which are retained or are changed only slightly the following are mentioned:

1. Relationship to other laws. The proposed new law does not attempt to supplant the existing authority or jurisdiction of other agencies, including boards of child welfare, children's courts, and departments of education and health, which have definite functions with relation to children. (See section 14).

2. Cities. The jurisdiction and authority of cities under charters or other special laws, whether they are separate poor law districts or form part of the general county plan in the care of the poor, are preserved. (See sections 13 and 27). The cities of New York, Kingston, Oswego and Poughkeepsie, and the City and Town of Newburgh, which, under existing laws care for their own poor independent of any county and have their own almshouses, retain their separate identity with all existing powers. (See Sections 31 and 32).

3. Town overseers. The authority of overseers of the poor in towns is continued, though somewhat reduced, except in counties in which the board of supervisors may determine that the administration of all relief within the county shall be through a county official. (See sections 24, 25, (1), 26, and 27).

4. County commissioners of public welfare. The superintendent of the poor of a county, under the name of commissioner of public welfare, continues to be elected or appointed as now provided by law, though he is given larger responsibility for the supervision of relief given in the towns, particularly with reference to children and to adults needing institutional care.

5. Authority of boards of supervisors to abolish or revive distinction between town and county poor. Boards of supervisors continue to have authority to determine whether particular classes of persons receiving relief shall be a county or a town charge. (See section 26).

6. Almshouses. The administration and control of almshouses, to be known as county homes, city homes, and town homes, remain substantially as at present. The responsibility of officials with reference to these institutions, is, however, more clearly defined. (See sections 90-99).

7. State Department of Charities. The responsibility and authority of the State Department of Charities in the supervision of public relief, while more clearly defined, is not changed in any essential respect. (See sections 138-142).

8. State Charities Aid Association. The right given the State Charities Aid Association to visit public homes through a duly appointed representative remains unchanged. (See section 143).

The most important changes have to do with the following:

1. Elimination of obsolete and unnecessary specials. The bill is an attempt to present the subject matter in a more orderly arrangement than the present Poor Law, which has added many accretions in its history, and a long list of obsolete special laws are repealed, thus reducing the provisions affecting particular counties, cities or towns to a minimum consistent with a practical application of the statute.

2. Town overseers. The overseer of the poor of a town is made appointive, and his direct responsibility is limited to granting outdoor, or family, relief, and to assisting the county commissioner in cases living of having a settlement in his town. It is further provided that in counties which may now, or which may hereafter determine through their boards of supervisors, that all relief shall be a county charge, the position of overseer may be eliminated. (See sections 25, 26 and 27).

3. Institutional relief and care of children away from their homes made a county or city problem. Institutional relief for adults, and the care of children away from their own homes, are made subject to the approval of the county commissioner (or city commissioner in case of cities responsible for the administration and cost of such care), and not left to the judgment of town overseers whose experience in such matters is usually very limited. The cost of such institutional care and care of children provided by the county is made a county expense in the first instance whether or not the amount is charged back under a resolution of the board of supervisors to towns or cities comprising such county.

4. Settlement laws. The provisions concerning settlement of poor persons, while not changed in principle are more clearly outlined, and the responsibility for relief of a poor person having a settlement within the state is made dependent upon settlement in all cases, whereas in the existing law a person becoming poor in one county and having a settlement in another county is usually a charge on the county where he may happen to be.



5. State poor, including Indian poor. Whereas the existing law makes all Indian poor persons state poor, and the cost of relief paid from funds appropriated to the State Department of Charities, it is proposed that Indians who are permanently resident outside of a reservation be cared for as other poor persons. The provision in section 65 (2), reading "Any Indian poor person who has resided upon any Indian reservation in this state for at least six months during the year prior to application for public relief and care", still leaves the Indians who maintain their homes on the reservations as state poor. The change is proposed in the belief that Indians not residing on the reservation should be encouraged to consider themselves as having all the rights and all the responsibilities of white persons. Slight changes in the provisions concerning the care of state poor (including Indian poor) permit a more workable plan for their care. For example, it is proposed that state poor be cared for in any almshouse rather than requiring them to be sent to particular almshouses as at present (see section 67), and if not proper subjects for admission to an almshouse their care "as other persons in need" is permitted. (See section 68).

6. Children. The article on children (see sections 103-111), more clearly outlines the duties and authority of poor law officials for children not under the jurisdiction of boards of child welfare or children's courts, and the sections covering this subject will serve as guides to public relief officials in their handling of cases.

7. The blind. The provisions with relation to the blind (see sections 113-115), have the approval of the State Commission for the Blind and more nearly conform to the present laws covering the blind.

8. Veteran relief. While more simply stated than the present law, this article is not materially changed. Suggestions made by representatives of the American Legion and other veteran organizations have been incorporated and so far as we know there is now no objection to the provisions from these sources. (See sections 117-121).

9. Responsibility of relatives. In the article concerning the powers of public welfare officials to enforce support, some slight changes from the existing laws have been made; for example, relatives responsible for the support of a poor person are made to include husband, wife, father, mother, grandparent, child and grandchild, and step-parents are in like manner made responsible for the support of minor step-children. A public welfare official is, moreover, authorized to lay claim in certain cases to insurance payable to the estate of a person who has received relief. (See sections 125-133).

In the miscellaneous provisions (sections 147-156), some desirable features of special laws applicable to certain cities, towns or counties have been incorporated, but none of these include radical changes.

COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

WILLIAM H. ROSS, M.D., *President*

CHARLES H. SMITH

DAVID EDWARDS, M.D.

MRS. J. HENRY DAILY

FRANK E. BRUSH

JOSEPH H. MARSHALL, M.D.

ROBERT J. BARTLEY, JR.

ARTHUR T. DAVIS, M. D.,

*County Health Officer*

ELOISE SNYDER, *Clerk*

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

SUFFOLK COUNTY

Brentwood,

~~Brentwood~~, N. Y. March 22, 1929

S332

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Governor of New York State  
Albany, New York

My dear Governor Roosevelt:

A forward looking piece of legislation - the Public Welfare Bill - has passed the Legislature unanimously and awaits your action as Governor.

As one interested in public health and as President of the Suffolk County Board of Health and President of the Suffolk County Tuberculosis and Public Health Association of the State Charities Aid Association, I wish to ask you to make this bill a law by your signature.

The bill has so many good features, corrects so many defects in the administration of the Poor Law, has no bad features and will, if it becomes a law, provide better care and relief for the poor, and will prevent dependency to some degree ~~that I have no hesitancy in~~ requesting that you give it favorable consideration. This bill is the result of very careful study of the existing laws and provides a splendid correction of them.

Very truly yours



W.H. Ross, M.D.

WHR-R

MRS. F. R. HAZARD  
P. O. DRAWER 1155  
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

March 22nd, 1929.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
A l b a n y, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I am pleased to note that the Public Welfare Bill, which would replace the ancient poor law with a modern, workable statute, has been passed by both Houses of the Legislature, and I venture to urge you to make this Bill a law by your own signature.

Yours very truly,

*F. R. Hazard*

PETER CANTLINE  
ATTORNEY & COUNSELLOR  
BREWSTER BUILDING  
NEWBURGH, N. Y.

March 22nd, 1929.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Executive Chambers,  
Albany, N. Y.

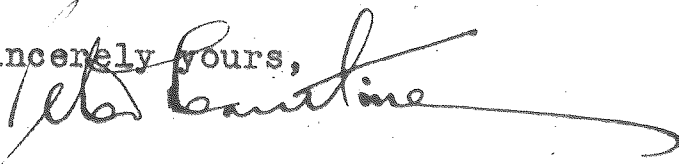
My dear Governor Roosevelt:

There is now before you for consideration, and I hope your signature, the Public Welfare Bill, which is to take the place of the present Poor Law.

As Chairman of the Committee of the State Charities Aid Association which has been working since 1925 on the revision of the Poor Law, I earnestly ask you to give your approval to this Bill.

For three successive years we have had a Public Welfare Bill introduced in the Legislature. Many meetings and conferences were had and two public hearings before joint legislative committees held. The subject has been thoroughly studied and discussed. The Bill before you is a result of that study. It may not be the ideal, but still it is vastly superior to our present Law and a foundation for better legislation. To have insisted upon too drastic changes now, would have resulted in a defeat of our aim to better the present conditions.

Sincerely yours,



CONELIUS N. BLISS, PRESIDENT  
R. FULTON CUTTING  
FRANK S. FINE  
Dwight W. MORROW  
ALBERT C. MILBANK } VICE-PRESIDENTS

GEORGE BLADGEN, TREASURER  
ACOSTA NICHOLS, SECRETARY  
GEORGE W. WICKERSHAM, COUNSEL

BAILEY B. BURRITT  
GENERAL DIRECTOR



# The A·I·C·P.

ASSOCIATION FOR IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THE POOR

105 EAST 22<sup>ND</sup> STREET  
TELEPHONE GRAMERCY 7040  
NEW YORK

March 22, 1929.

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The Capitol  
Albany, N. Y.

My dear Governor Roosevelt:

The Board of Managers of the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, at their regular meeting held in February, had before them the proposed revision of the State Poor Law as introduced in the Senate by Senator Fearon and in the Assembly by Mr. Shonk.

The work of this Association is such that it brings it at all times in touch with the Departments of Public Welfare. We have been familiar over a long period of years with the work of public welfare officials, including overseers of the poor. We have followed closely the considerations and discussions which have led gradually to the revision of the law which now has been passed by the Legislature and is, I understand, before you.

After careful consideration of the whole project, our Board of Managers came to the conclusion, which was expressed in a resolution adopted by them, that every effort should be made to secure favorable action on this legislation.

It is not necessary, we believe, in writing you to detail the reasons why we think the legislation is sound. We realize that there has been so much consideration of the matter and so much literature with regard to it, that you, yourself, are already quite familiar with the advantages that would follow the enactment of this legislation. We do wish to convey to you, however, the fact that this Association with some 12,000 contributors behind it and expending over \$1,000,000 annually in poor relief and in general welfare work, believes that the

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt

3/22/29

legislation is in the interest of sound and wise development of public policy.

On behalf of our Board of Managers, may I, therefore, express our urgent hope that you will affix your signature to this legislation.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bailey B. Durrill". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

General Director

# Ulster County Committee on Tuberculosis and Public Health

## VICE-PRESIDENTS:

MR. SAM BERNSTEIN  
REV. CHARLES G. ELLIS  
MRS. CLARA N. REED  
REV. WILLIAM KENNEDY  
MRS. MARY HAYES  
CAPT. EVERETT FOWLER  
HON. JOHN A. SNYDER  
Saugerties  
REV. FRANCIS M. O'REILLY  
Rosendale



— OF —

## State Charities Aid Association

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

HON. JOSEPH M. FOWLER, President

DR. MARY GAGE DAY,  
Secretary.



MR. CHARLES SNYDER,  
Treasurer.

## SUB-COMMITTEES:

Committee on Legislation:  
HON. PHILIP ELTING, Chairman  
Committee on Publicity:  
MISS DOROTHY MAC FADDEN  
Committee on Hospital and Camp:  
DR. ALDEN G. GATES, Chairman  
Committee on Visiting Nurse:  
DR. MARK O'MEARA, Chairman  
Auditing Committee:  
MR. CORNELIUS HUME, Chairman



Kingston, - New York

March 22, 1929

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt

Governor of New York State

Albany, N.Y.

5333

Most Respected Governor;

I am writing to beg you to sign the Public Welfare Bill, which I am informed has passed both houses of the legislature.

Your signature, will give New York State a modern workable statute in place of the "Ancient Poor Law" under which we are working at the present time.

Most respectfully yours

*Mary Gage Day*

Secretary

County of Clinton  
Chambers of Children's Court  
Plattsburgh, New York

WELLA R. NORTH  
JUDGE

March 22, 1929.

His Excellency,  
The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Albany, N.Y.

My dear Governor Roosevelt:-

I note that the Public Welfare Bill has passed both Houses of the Legislature and is now awaiting your action. I hope that you will see your way clear to make this Bill a law by your signature. We who live in the rural counties and have had to work as I have for seven years with local poor officers realize what a progressive step this is and what a great help such a law will be to us in our work with the destitute child. I feel sure that if you decide that it is best to sign this Bill you will note within a year a great improvement in the conditions of the poor in the upstate counties.

Very truly yours,

*Wella R. North*

Judge of the Children's Court.

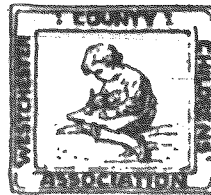


WESTCHESTER COUNTY CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

8 CHURCH STREET, WHITE PLAINS, N. Y.

TEL. WHITE PLAINS 9098

MRS. CARROLL DUNHAM, PRESIDENT  
MRS. GEORGE D. BARRON, VICE-PRESIDENT  
V. EVERIT MACY, VICE-PRESIDENT  
MRS. JOHN TYSSOWSKI, VICE-PRESIDENT  
MRS. J. NOEL MACY, VICE-PRESIDENT  
ALLAN H. RICHARDSON, TREASURER



MRS. EDITH J. MITCHELL  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
LOUISE K. GATES  
SPECIAL STUDIES  
MARY HELEN SMITH  
FIELD WORKER  
HELEN KENNEDY STEVENS  
PUBLICITY SECRETARY

CHAIRMEN OF STANDING COMMITTEES

MRS. ALLAN COGGESHALL  
MEMBERSHIP  
MRS. J. NOEL MACY  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILD WELFARE  
DR. DAVID MITCHELL  
EDUCATION  
MRS. S. ROGER MITCHELL  
COURT  
ALBERT W. WHITNEY  
RECREATION  
MRS. JAMES S. WOLF  
PUBLICITY

March 22, 1929

His Excellency,  
Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Albany, N.Y.

Honorable Sir:

The Westchester County Children's Association, which is interested in all conditions of social welfare which affect the lives of children in the county, has been interested in the Public Welfare bill introduced by Senator Fearon and Mr. Shonk. At a meeting on February 19, the following action was taken, endorsing it

"WHEREAS the Poor Law of New York State was enacted more than 100 years ago, and subsequently, from time to time, has been modified by numerous amendments, exemptions, exceptions, and special acts, leaving the present law vague, confused, difficult to administer, and ineffective in accomplishing its purposes and

WHEREAS a bill representing the recommendations of the special committee on Revision of the Poor Law has been introduced (Senate Int. 333, Pr. 341, Mr. Fearon, and Assembly Int. 561, Pr. 593, Mr. Shonk) to repeal the present Poor Law and some 140 related statutes, and to enact in its stead a modern, comprehensive Public Welfare Law permitting centralized administration of poor relief in the various counties, in the discretion of the respective counties, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Westchester County Children's Association hereby heartily endorses the provisions contained in the Fearon-Shonk bill and urges its passage by the Legislature and its approval by the Governor, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the committee and sent to the following persons:

Hon. John Knight	Majority Leader in Senate
" Joseph A. McGinnies	Speaker of Assembly
" H. D. Williams	Chairman of General Laws Committee of Senate
" Fred R. Porter	" of Com. on Reorganization of State Government
" Herbert B. Shonk	Introducer of Bill in Assembly
" George R. Fearon	" " " " Senate
" Seabury C. Mastick	Senator from Westchester County
" Walter W. Westall	" " " "
" Milan E. Goodrich	Assemblyman from " "
" T. Channing Moore	" " " "
" Alexander H. Garnjost	" " " "
" William F. Condon	" " " "

We are glad to learn that this measure has passed both Houses as we believe it an important and necessary piece of legislation and hope that you will sign it when it comes to you for action.

Respectfully yours,

*Louise K. Gates*  
 (Louise K. Gates)  
 Secretary of the Department  
 of Child Welfare Committee

LKG:FM

Hon. Franklin Roosevelt Governor  
Albany, N. Y.

My dear Governor Roosevelt:  
I write  
to urge you to make the Pub-  
lic Welfare Bill a law by  
your signature.

I have worked for fifty  
years with the State Churches  
and Association and with  
other County and State organi-  
zations, and I realize the

great advantages which the  
law will bring to the de-  
pendents of our state.

Very truly yours,  
Sarah F. S. Armstrong  
~~Visitor~~  
~~Manager~~ Newark State School

March 23, 1929

ALMOST BROOK  
TUXEDO PARK, N. Y.

S333

To the Governor of N. Y. State

My dear Governor

I am deeply

interested in the passage

of Senator Fearon's new

Pure Law Bill, having

been President of the

Orange Co. Committee

of the State's Charities

and Association for

many years <sup>40</sup> and having

and a member of the  
committee which drafted  
the new franchise legislation  
etc. I am thoroughly  
familiar with the history  
of the proposed franchise  
and am certain that  
Senator Feagin's bill  
is a tremendous step for-  
ward in the administration  
of franchise voting in the  
various counties and a  
great improvement on  
the present obsolete

overlapping systems in the various  
units of <sup>city</sup> ~~state~~ counties for voting in the  
state. I earnestly urge that you make  
this law by signing it.

Sincerely yours

Gerardine F. Odeh

Miss Ernest R. Odeh

March 23<sup>rd</sup> 29

L'HOMMEDIEU & WHEDON,  
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS,  
MEDINA, N.Y.  
IRVING L'HOMMEDIEU      MILTON J. WHEDON

March 23, 1929.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Governor,  
The Capitol,  
Albany, N.Y.

Dear Governor Roosevelt:

As one who has been attorney for a town in this county for a good many years, thereby having considerable experience with the Poor Law, I write at this time expressing my approval of what is known as the Public Welfare Bill, which has passed the Legislature and now awaits your action. It will be a public benefit for the same to become a law.

Respectfully yours,

IL'H/LM.

*Irving L'Hommedieu*

# Schenectady Committee on the Prevention of Tuberculosis OF THE STATE CHARITIES AID ASSOCIATION

OFFICE 4 NEW YORK CENTRAL ARCADE  
IVA J. THOMPSON, Executive Secretary and Social Worker  
TELEPHONE 7813



## OFFICERS

Chas. G. McDonald, President  
J. W. Pearson, First Vice-President  
Dr. J. P. Faber, Second Vice-President  
Mrs. Peter McPartion, Third Vice-President  
Chas. W. Merriam, Sec'y and Treas.  
John F. Horman, County Chairman

ALL FOR HEALTH HEALTH FOR ALL



## COMMITTEES

Dispensary and Visiting Nurse  
Relief and After Care  
Open Air Schools and Children's Work  
Hospital  
Education and Publicity  
Legislation and Municipal Regulation  
Children's Summer Camp at Pattersonville

March 26, 1929.

Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Governor of the State of New York  
State Capitol  
Albany, N. Y.

Your Excellency:

Our committee has gone on record as formally  
endorsing "The Public Welfare Bill" sponsored by Senator  
Pearson and Representative Shonk. Now that it has passed  
both houses, we hope you will consider it favorably.

Sincerely,

Chas. G. McDonald, Pres.  
Jos. W. Pearson, Vice-Pres.  
Chas. W. Merriam, Sec. & Treas.  
John F. Horman, Chairman

IJT:AL



Chambers of County Court  
County of Cortland  
Cortland, N. D.

GEORGE M. CHAMPLIN  
COUNTY JUDGE

March 23, 1929.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Governor of the State of New York,  
Albany, N. Y.

My dear Governor:

I have been greatly interested in the Public Welfare Bill which unanimously passed both Houses of the Legislature. I believe that, if this bill becomes a law, the doors will be open for a more humane and intelligent treatment of the unfortunate people of our state who have heretofore been classified as "poor persons". While the bill is in permissive form, if it becomes a law, it can be the foundation upon which to build a scientific and progressive welfare organization in each county. The rural sections are in particular need of improvement in reference to the administration of the treatment of unfortunates.

The widow's pension, crippled children's law, treatment of tuberculosis and other laws of this state have brought relief and help to a large number of worthy citizens. However, I consider the importance of this Public Welfare Bill exceeds all the others. It forms the basis for the general treatment in handling the poor and unfortunate.

I haven't any doubt about your signing the bill, as your well known sympathy and understanding of the condition of the world's unfortunates precludes that.

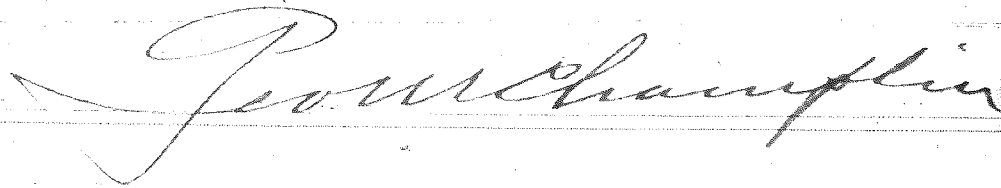
Chambers of County Court  
County of Cortland  
Cortland, N. D.

GEORGE M. CHAMPLIN  
COUNTY JUDGE

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt #2

Thanking you for your consideration of this  
letter, I am,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George M. Champlin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "George M. Champlin".

GMC/ERB

# Social Service Commission

BY REV. A. S. LLOYD, D.D. [EX. OFFICIO]

ELECTED BY CONVENTION

CLASS OF 1929

REV. SELDON P. DELANY, D. D.  
HON. ROBERT McC. MARSH  
MRS. ALLEN WARDWELL

CLASS OF 1930

REV. W. RUSSELL BOWIE, D. D.  
JOHN S. WALKER, M. D.  
MRS. HENRY GODDARD LEACH

CLASS OF 1931

REV. MELFORD L. BROWN  
MR. CHARLES C. BURLINGHAM  
MRS. V. S. SIMKHOVITCH

CLASS OF 1932

REV. ROELIF H. BROOKS, D. D.  
MR. FREDERIC A. BURLINGAME  
MRS. ARTHUR O. CHOATE

DIocese OF NEW YORK  
416 LAFAYETTE STREET, NEW YORK  
TELEPHONE SPRING 9970

REV. CHAS. K. GILBERT, D. D.  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

ELECTED BY THE ARCHDEACONRIES  
BRONX—HON. JAMES A. HAMILTON  
DUTCHESS—REV. MAXWELL W. RICE  
HUDSON—REV. SAMUEL W. BRISCOE  
RAMAPO—MRS. CHAS. P. BISPHAM  
RICHMOND—REV. L. M. A. HAUGWOUT  
WESTCHESTER—REV. WM. N. COLTON

March 25, 1929.

*Melford L. Brown*

Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Albany,  
N. Y.

Dear Governor Roosevelt:

Our Commission has given careful consideration to the Fearon-Shonk Public Welfare bill recently passed by the Senate and the Assembly.

I beg to enclose herewith a copy of a resolution recently adopted and venture to express, on behalf of the Commission, the earnest hope that you will see your way to give your approval to this measure.

Respectfully yours,

*Chas. K. Gilbert*

Enc.

CKG:MG

The Social Service Commission of the Diocese of New York at its regular meeting on February 18th, 1929 unanimously adopted the following resolution:

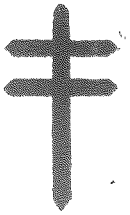
"In view of the recommendation of our Legislative Committee, based upon its careful study of the proposals submitted to the Legislatures of 1927 and 1928, looking to the modernizing of the present archaic Poor Law of the State,

Be it resolved: That this Commission endorse the principles and provisions of the Fearon-Shonk bill (S. 333; A. 561) which, we are persuaded, would insure more adequate and constructive care for the poor, wiser expenditure of public funds, helpful co-ordination of the duties of town, city and county officials, and permit the application of approved modern methods in the relief of the destitute.

Be it further resolved: That the Executive Secretary be instructed to communicate this action to the appropriate officials in Albany and to take such steps as may seem to him wise in enlisting the support of the Churches for this measure."



# WARREN COUNTY TUBERCULOSIS COMMITTEE



AFFILIATED WITH THE STATE AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

TELEPHONE 194

59 RIDGE STREET

GLENS FALLS, N. Y.

### OFFICERS

Mr. John H. Barker, President  
Mr. J. E. Singleton, 1st Vice President  
Mr. Maurice Hoopes, 2nd Vice President  
Mr. John Mannix, 3rd Vice President  
Mr. W. H. Adamson, Sec'y and Treas.

### DIRECTORS 3 Years

Mr. G. F. Bayle, Sr.  
Mr. J. E. Singleton  
Mr. Maurice Hoopes  
Mr. W. H. Adamson  
Mrs. J. T. Finch  
Mr. John Barker

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MARJORIE M. BUCKNAM, *Executive Secretary*

OLIVE R. JONES, *Nutritionist*

March 27th 1928

Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
The Capitol,  
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

At the request of the President of the Warren County Tuberculosis Committee I am sending you a copy of a resolution, recently passed at a meeting of our Board of Directors, concerning the new Public Welfare Bill which we very much hope that you will see fit to act favorably upon.

Very truly yours,

Executive Secretary,  
Warren County Tuberculosis Com.

MMB:MMB  
Enclosure.

February 27th,  
1 9 2 9.

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Tuberculosis Committee, acting by its Board of Directors, heartily endorse the objects sought to be obtained by the bill introduced in the Senate of the State of New York by Senator George R. Fearon and known as Senate Introductory 333, Print. 341, and Assembly Int. 361. Print. 593 by Assemblyman Herbert B. Shonk, and strongly urges its enactment into law. Be it further

RESOLVED that the Executive Secretary transmit copies of this resolution to our State Senator Hon. H. E. H. Brewster, our Assemblyman, Hon. P. L. Boyce, to the Executive Secretary of the Committee on Tuberculosis and Public Health of the State Charities Aid Association and to Senator George R. Fearon and Assemblyman Herbert B. Shonk.

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Mayor of Rochester  
 District State Health Officer  
 State Department of Health  
 Health Officers  
 Rochester and Monroe County  
 Medical Authorities  
 County Tuberculosis Sanatorium  
 School Authorities  
 Rochester and Monroe County  
 President, Medical Society  
 County of Monroe



**TUBERCULOSIS AND HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
 OF ROCHESTER AND MONROE COUNTY, INC.**

35 CHESTNUT STREET      STONE 880      ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

AFFILIATED WITH STATE AND NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATIONS  
 AMERICAN CHILD HEALTH ASSOCIATION      AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

RAYMOND H. GREENMAN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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 Leslie S. Wood  
 Warren Wooden, M.D.  
 Theodore A. Zornow

March 27, 1929.

Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
 Albany, New York.

Dear Sir:-

The membership of our Association in a meeting assembled consisting of representatives of the townships of Monroe County outside of Rochester as well as those within the City limits, approved the action of the State Legislature taken recently in passing the Fearon-Shonk Public Welfare Bill to revise the antiquated poor law.

They have asked me, on behalf of Dr. Rufus B. Crain, our Association Secretary, to urge you to sign this bill in order that we may have in this State a modern, understandable, workable law.

I enclose a copy of the resolution as signed by Dr. Crain.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond H. Greenman, Executive Secretary,  
 Tuberculosis and Health Association of  
 Rochester and Monroe County, Inc.

Encl.  
 RHG/M.

Proposed Resolution to be Presented to Those  
Present at the Association General Meeting,  
March 19, 1929.

Whereas: New York State needs a modern public welfare law to replace its antiquated poor law, and

Whereas: A modern, understandable, workable law has been drafted by a joint committee consisting of representatives of the State Department of Charities, Poor Law Officers' Association, and the State Charities Aid Association, defining more clearly among other things, what constitutes legal settlement, assuring more adequate relief and better medical care for the poor and the indigent sick, and eliminating confusion of the administrative responsibility now existing between county, town and city poor law officials.

Whereas: This proposed bill has passed the State Legislature in Albany, having already been approved by a number of health and welfare agencies in different parts of the State.

Be It Therefore Resolved:

That the membership of the Tuberculosis and Health Association of Rochester and Monroe County, Inc. in meeting assembled on March 19th, 1929, and consisting of representative citizens of the township of Monroe County outside of Rochester as well as those within the city limits, approve the action of the State Legislature in the passage of the Fearon-Shenk Public Welfare Bill, and urge the signing of the bill by the Governor.

Respectfully submitted for the Committee

Rufus B. Cram <sup>M.P.</sup> Secretary.



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MRS. MARY HARVEY, R. N.  
HEAD NURSE



OLEAN, N. Y. March 27, 1929

*W. H. Korn*  
*5332*  
*9561*

Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Executive Chambers,  
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Governor Roosevelt:

It may be of interest and help to you in considering the merits of the Fearon-Shonk bill now before you to know of the attitude taken toward it by the anti-tuberculosis organizations in this county. We find, of course, that tuberculosis is largely a disease of the poor and, being a chronic debilitating affection, it frequently causes patients to seek financial aid from public funds.

At a recent meeting of the Board of this Sanatorium the following resolution was adopted and copies were sent to our Senator and Assemblyman:

" Resolved that the Board of Managers of Rocky Crest Sanatorium indorse the Fearon-Shonk bill for remodeling the poor law and hope that they ( the above officials ) will use their influence in securing its enactment."

The County Tuberculosis and Public Health Association adopted a similiar resolution.

In like manner we would ask your favorable consideration of this bill as it seems to be distinctly more modern and more in accord with the needs of the situation than is the old law.

Very sincerely yours,

Superintendent.

JHK/LL

NEW YORK STATE  
COMMITTEE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

March 29, 1929

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Executive Chamber  
Capitol  
Albany, New York

S333

Dear Governor Roosevelt:

The New York State Committee of Catholic Charities desires to record its approval of Senator Fearon's Public Welfare Bill, Senate Int. No. 333, Pr. No. 1346, now before you for action.

This legislation is a big step forward in the field of public welfare work. Much time and effort have been given to give the State a better law on the important subject of poor and general welfare relief.

We ask with others that you approve the bill.

Yours very truly,

*Charles J. Tobin*  
Secretary

CJT/FEG

OFFICERS



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MRS. M. A. GALT  
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REV. CAMERON DAVIS, D. D.  
CHAIRMAN

# Church Mission of Help

Diocese of Western New York

MRS. LAWRENCE GARDNER  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

OFFICE: 237 NORTH STREET  
BUFFALO, N.Y.

MISS HELEN OLMSTEAD  
SECRETARY

TELEPHONE TUPPER 7569

MRS. OSCAR KUNAU  
TREASURER

BRENT HOUSE, 12 ST. JOHN'S PLACE, BUFFALO

March 29, 1929

S 333

The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt

ALBANY, N. Y.

My dear Sir:

The Department of Christian Social Service of the Diocese of Western New York heartily approves and endorses the principles and provisions contained in the Fearon-Shonk bill, substituting a Public Welfare Law for the present Poor Law (Senate Int. 333, Assembly Int. 561), and hopes most earnestly that your Excellency will act favorably upon this bill.

Very truly yours,

*Ann E. Prophet*

Miss Ann E. Prophet  
Secretary

# STATE CHARITIES AID ASSOCIATION

CHILD PLACING  
COUNTY CHILDREN'S AGENCIES,  
ASSISTING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN  
SOCIAL WELFARE LEGISLATION



MENTAL HYGIENE (STATEWIDE)  
TUBERCULOSIS AND PUBLIC HEALTH  
(EXCLUSIVE OF NEW YORK CITY)  
VISITATION OF PUBLIC CHARITABLE  
INSTITUTIONS (NEW YORK CITY AND STATE)

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105 EAST 22ND STREET  
NEW YORK

+  
Telephone Gramercy 1454

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CHARLES E. HUGHES	OWEN D. YOUNG

March 28, 1929.

*S 333*

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Executive Chamber,  
Capitol,  
Albany, N. Y.

Re: Senate Int. 333, Pr. 1346  
By Senator Fearon

My dear Governor Roosevelt:-

May I urge your favorable consideration for the Public Welfare Bill which has been passed unanimously by the Legislature and is now before you for signature. I believe the enactment of this Public Welfare Law would be an historical event in the development of public care of the poor in this State. It would mean the repeal of the obsolete Poor Law which is utterly unsuited to modern conditions, and would provide the State with a modern statute under which efficient and humane care of the poor would be possible.

The difference between the present Poor Law and the proposed Public Welfare Law is symbolized by the difference in their titles. The Poor Law is everything that its title suggests and is harsh and reactionary. The proposed Public

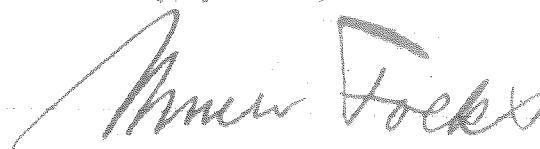
Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt

March 28, 1929.

Welfare Law is modern and based on the idea that the purpose of public relief is the relief of distress and the prevention of dependency.

I am enclosing a memorandum in support of the proposed Public Welfare Bill, and a copy of the resolution passed by the Board of Managers of the State Charities Aid Association. If you would care to have a more detailed study of the bill I should be glad to send it to you or to confer with you about it.

Sincerely yours,

  
Secretary

HF:H

Encl.

# STATE CHARITIES AID ASSOCIATION

CHILD PLACING  
 COUNTY CHILDREN'S AGENCIES  
 ASSISTING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN  
 SOCIAL WELFARE LEGISLATION



MENTAL HYGIENE (STATEWIDE)  
 TUBERCULOSIS AND PUBLIC HEALTH  
 (EXCLUSIVE OF NEW YORK CITY)  
 VISITATION OF PUBLIC CHARITABLE  
 INSTITUTIONS (NEW YORK CITY AND STATE)

105 EAST 22ND STREET  
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 HOMER FOLKS, *Secretary*  
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WILLIAM E. HARMON	MISS LILLA C. WHEELER
	OWEN D. YOUNG

March 28, 1929.

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF  
 SENATE INT. 333, PR. 1346, by SENATOR FEARON

S 333

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The Public Welfare bill, which has been passed unanimously by the Legislature, repeals the archaic and inadequate Poor Law and a large number of conflicting special laws relating to particular localities and enacts a modern and adequate Public Welfare Law to govern public relief and care of persons in need. This bill represents the consensus of opinion of those most familiar with the problems involved in the care of the poor at public expense.

This bill is the result of painstaking study over a period of years on the part of the State Department of Charities, the Association of County Superintendents of the Poor and Poor Law Officials and the Special Committee on the Revision of the Poor Law of the State Charities Aid Association. The

work of a Commissioner appointed by the Legislature in 1924 to 1926 to codify the existing laws relating to the care of the poor has been utilized in the schedule of repeals.

Organizations and individuals familiar with the problem throughout the State have participated in the study which has resulted in the drafting of the bill passed by the 1929 Legislature.

In 1927, two bills proposing to revise the Poor Law were before the Legislature. One proposed the mere codification of existing laws with no important changes and the other proposed a Public Welfare Law making substantive changes in the administrative system. No action was taken by the Legislature that year. Following the adjournment of the 1927 Legislature, a Joint Committee was organized consisting of representatives of the State Department of Charities, the Association of County Superintendents of the Poor and Poor Law Officials and the Special Committee on the Revision of the Poor Law of the State Charities Aid Association. This Joint Committee has been at work since that time and has been responsible for the drafting of a bill introduced in the 1928 Legislature, which passed the Senate only, and this bill passed by the 1929 Legislature.

During its passage through the Legislature, the Public Welfare bill received the most cordial support throughout the State. It has been unanimously endorsed by the State Board of Charities, the Association of County Superintendents of the Poor, the Board of Managers of the State Charities Aid

Association and many other organizations. There has been no opposition to it in the Legislature and it was passed unanimously.

The proposed Public Welfare Law is based on modern ideas of adequate care of persons in need for the purpose of relieving distress and preventing dependency. In place of the harsh restrictions of the present Poor Law, definite provisions are made as to the purpose of relief, investigation, supervision and the care to be given the sick, blind, children and all persons in need.

The responsibility of town, city and county officials is clearly stated. The county is given greater responsibility for administration, especially for cases needing continued care. Considerable improvement is made in the administrative system without interfering in any way with the powers of cities under their charters or the City Home Rule Law. By the substitution of a Town Public Welfare Officer appointed by the Town Board for the present elected Town Overseer of the Poor, it is made possible for a county, by action of its Board of Supervisors, to establish a county system of administration whenever the county is ready for the change.

The proposed Public Welfare Law would not only substantially improve the present system of administration, but would also open the way for future progress. In its social aspects and specific directions as to the care to be given, it will serve as a manual for public officers in the performance of their duties.



The more important changes made by the Public Welfare bill may be briefly summarized as follows:

Administration:

For the purpose of administration, the State is divided into city and county public welfare districts. The city public welfare districts are New York City and four cities which have their own almshouses and are already, by special laws, independent of the counties in which they are situated - Kingston, Newburg, Oswego and Poughkeepsie. The county public welfare district consists of the towns and cities in the county, except a city which is a city public welfare district.

The Public Welfare bill defines clearly the relationship of the towns and cities to the county. The Poor Law is not clear on this subject and the relationship depends as much on custom as on law. The Public Welfare bill makes mandatory on all counties a more centralized system of administration of relief. Whereas under the Poor Law, the town is responsible for the administration of all relief to persons having a settlement, under the Public Welfare bill the responsibility of the town is limited to home relief and medical care given in the home to residents, exclusive, however, of physically handicapped children and children born out of wedlock, who are made a county responsibility.

Cities are given the same power as towns and are also made responsible for the provision of hospital care for residents. The cities can also exercise any additional powers given them by their charters. The responsibility of the county for city

cases thus varies according to whether or not the city, under its charter, has greater powers and responsibilities than those conferred on it by the Public Welfare bill.

The county administers all relief for which the towns and cities are not responsible. The county is thus responsible for institutional care for adults, care of dependent children who must be cared for away from their families, relief for physically handicapped children and children born out of wedlock, hospital care for town cases and relief for persons receiving care elsewhere than the place of their settlement. The bill makes Statewide the system now found in a few progressive counties, definitely limiting the powers of towns and placing as much responsibility for city cases in the county as is possible without interfering with the city charter powers.

All relief administered by the county is paid for by the county and remains a county charge unless the Board of Supervisors directs that it be charged back to the town or city where the person has a settlement. This reverses the present system, as under the Poor Law all relief is a town and city charge unless the Board of Supervisors decides to make it a county charge.

By its mandatory provisions the Public Welfare bill establishes a county system of administration for all relief except outdoor relief in towns and cities, and hospital care in cities. By its permissive features a more complete system of county administration is made possible by action of the

Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors may make all relief and care administered by the towns and cities a county charge to be either administered by the town and city officials under the supervision of the County Commissioner of Public Welfare, or administered directly by the County Commissioner, his deputies and assistants. Direct administration by the county is made possible because the Public Welfare bill substitutes a town public welfare officer appointed by the town board for the elected town overseer of the poor, and the appointive town official can be eliminated if the county decides to administer all the relief in the towns. The county, however, cannot take over the administration in the city until the action of the Board of Supervisors is confirmed by the city council and the city can, if it so desires, continue to exercise its charter powers. These permissive provisions provide a comprehensive system of county administration without the necessity for further legislation.

Settlement:

The provisions as to settlement are much simplified by making the place of a person's settlement responsible for his relief until the person gains a new settlement elsewhere or leaves the State for one year. This is a great improvement over the present law, making responsibility dependent on previous receipt of poor relief, which results in many administrative difficulties and much litigation. The Public Welfare bill is much more specific than the Poor Law on the whole question

of settlement as the court decisions and rulings of the attorney general on this subject have been incorporated in the bill.

Almshouses:

No changes are made as to almshouse systems except to provide that a county may contract with another county for the care of its poor. Very definite regulations as to the care to be given inmates are incorporated in the Public Welfare bill. The Poor Law, though primarily concerned with relief in almshouses, is silent as to the care to be given in the institutions.

Care to be Given:

In contrast to the meager provisions in the Poor Law relative to the care of children, outdoor relief, investigations and supervision, the Public Welfare bill deals at length with the purpose of relief and the methods of administration. Where the Poor Law is silent or states that care may be given, the Public Welfare bill establishes mandatory responsibility for adequate relief and medical care. Definite provisions are made for investigation, supervision of the poor in their homes and in institutions. The powers and duties of all public welfare officials in relation to adults, children and blind, are clearly stated. While there is no interference with the powers of the Boards of Child Welfare and the Children's Courts, the public welfare officials are made definitely responsible for the care of all children not under the Boards of Child Welfare, and have cooperation with the Children's Courts. The methods of caring for children are clearly outlined.

Resolution Adopted by the Board of Managers  
of the  
State Charities Aid Association  
February 15, 1929

\* \* \* \* \*

WHEREAS, the Poor Law of New York State was enacted more than 100 years ago, and subsequently, from time to time, has been modified by numerous amendments, exemptions, exceptions, and special acts, leaving the present law vague, confused, difficult to administer, and ineffective in accomplishing its purposes, and

WHEREAS, approximately \$37,000,000 was spent in 1927 for charities administered under the direction of Poor Law officials (\$2,342,577 of this amount being expended for outdoor relief alone, in the State outside of New York City last year), and

WHEREAS, such large sums, if spent under a well-defined policy and under a more modern and comprehensive law, should operate to reduce dependency and poverty as well as to provide more wisely and effectively for those in need, and

WHEREAS, a bill has been introduced (Senate Int. 333 Print 341, Mr. Fearon; and Assembly Int. 561 Print 593, Mr. Shonk) to repeal the present Poor Law and some 140 related statutes, and to enact in its stead a modern, comprehensive Public Welfare Law permitting centralized administration of poor relief in the various counties, in the discretion of the respective counties, and

WHEREAS, the pending bill follows conferences between representatives of the State Department of Charities, the Legislative Committee of the Association of County Superintendents of the Poor, and the Special Committee on Revision of the Poor Law of the S.C.A.A. extending over several years, and represents the recommendations of the Special Committee on Revision of the Poor Law and the consensus

of opinion of the representatives of the three organizations above referred to, and

WHEREAS, the proposed measure would provide a modern, workable statute under which the Poor Law authorities could more effectively perform their functions, promote measures to diminish dependency, and secure wiser expenditures of public funds, and

WHEREAS, this bill, while making no radical changes in the present administrative system, does clearly outline the duties and responsibilities of town, city, and county officials, and opens the way for progress by putting power in the Board of Supervisors of each county to establish greater centralization of responsibility in the county when the county itself is ready for such a change, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers has heretofore approved previous legislative proposals seeking to accomplish these purposes, therefore

RESOLVED, that the Board of Managers of the State Charities Aid Association hereby heartily approves and endorses the principles and provisions contained in the Fearon-Shonk bill, substituting a Public Welfare Law for the present Poor Law (Senate Int. 333, Assembly Int. 561) and authorizes that all appropriate steps be taken to secure the fullest public and official knowledge of the need of such legislation, and to organize support for the passage of the measure by the Legislature and its approval by the Governor.

# # # # #

# BUFFALO COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES

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REV. JOHN C. CARR, VICE-PRESIDENT  
FRANK POLLOCK, TREASURER

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DAVID C. ADIE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
RIALTO BLDG., 63 NIAGARA ST.  
SENECA 4053

March 29, 1929.

Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
State Capitol,  
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Governor Roosevelt:

I have been watching with a good deal of interest lately for the announcement of your signing the new Public Welfare Bill. On behalf of the social agencies of this city and, I feel sure, the similar agencies in other parts of the state, may I take the liberty of urging that you give this Bill favorable consideration, and that we may be assured, through your signature, of a new Poor Law.

While I do not believe that the Bill is perfect, I think it is a great advance over what we have, and ought to do a great deal to encourage the social agencies of the state to better service to the disadvantaged.

On behalf of my associates in social work, may I respectfully urge that you sign the Bill.

Sincerely yours,

*David C. Adie*

David C. Adie.  
Executive Secretary.

DCA/e

MRS. S. B. FORTENBAUGH

1333 LOWELL ROAD

SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

My dear Governor Roosevelt—  
In the interest of a higher  
standard of social work I  
am taking the liberty of  
writing to ask if you will  
not make this splendid  
Public Welfare bill a law  
by your signature.

67

I am glad to see that  
this bill has passed both



houses of The Legislature and  
where I feel sure that with  
your fine understanding of  
social work you will sign  
the bill, still I want to add  
my word urging your favor-  
able action -

With great appreciation  
I beg to remain

Respectfully Yours  
Ann M. Fortmough

March 30<sup>th</sup> 1925. 68



**OFFICERS**

**STAFF**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, BUFFALO**

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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MRS. LAWRENCE GARDNER  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

MISS HELEN OLMSTEAD  
SECRETARY

MRS. OSCAR KUNAU  
TREASURER

# Church Mission of Help

Diocese of Western New York

OFFICE: 237 NORTH STREET  
BUFFALO, N. Y.

TELEPHONE TUPPER 7569

BRENT HOUSE, 12 ST. JOHN'S PLACE, BUFFALO

MRS. WILMA A. VANDERWALL  
MRS. M. A. GALT  
ASSOCIATE SECRETARIES

MISS CECELIA NELSON  
DIRECTOR, BRENT HOUSE

April 1, 1929

*5033*

The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Governor of the State of New York  
ALBANY, N. Y.

My dear Sir:

The Church Mission of Help of the Diocese of Western New York, as a social service organization, engaged in protective work for the youth of our country, strongly urges the adoption of the "Poor Law Bill", introduced by Senator Fearon, #333; print numbers 341 and 1346, and the "Child Marriage Bill", introduced by Senator H. D. Williams, #377; print number 394.

Very respectfully yours,

*Ann E. Prophet*

Miss Ann E. Prophet  
Executive Secretary

AEP-AG

PHILIP J. WICKSER,  
PRESIDENT

JAMES W. PERSONS,  
1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

MISS MABEL M. WILCOX,  
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HAROLD T. CLEMENT,  
SECRETARY

A. C. LIVINGSTON,  
TREASURER

DOUGLAS P. FALCONER,  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



**CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY  
AND SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY  
TO CHILDREN OF ERIE COUNTY, N. Y.**

52 NIAGARA STREET  
BUFFALO, N. Y.

DEPARTMENTS

CASE WORK

E. MARGUERITE GANE, DIRECTOR  
PAULINE M. ALDRICH  
RICHARD M. CLARKE  
ANNE DOUGHERTY  
L. C. MATHER  
MARGARET MCCALLUM  
LOUISE PYE  
SUPERVISORS

JUVENILE PROTECTION

R. F. WOODBURY, DIRECTOR

MEDICAL CLINIC

JOHN A. RAGONE, M.D. DIRECTOR

PSYCHOLOGICAL CLINIC

CLARA HARRISON TOWN, PH.D.  
DIRECTOR

April 1, 1929.

Honorable Franklin Roosevelt, Governor  
Capitol Building  
Albany, New York.

My dear Governor Roosevelt:

I write to urge that you sign the revision of the Poor Law known as the Public Welfare Bill, introduced in the Senate by Senator Fearon, introductory number 333, print numbers 341 and 1346. As you probably know the social workers and others in the state, for many years, have been trying to get the Poor Law brought up to date, and while this bill does not accomplish everything that might have been done, it is none the less such a large step forward that I hope you will give it your approval.

Very sincerely yours,

  
Douglas R. Falconer  
Executive Secretary.

D.P.F:M.E.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE

Service Bureau for Foreign Born Women

Young Women's Christian Association

334 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.

Telephone, Tupper 3118

April 1, 1933

Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York

Honorable Sir:

We earnestly urge your interest in the Public Welfare and also in the Child Marriage bills now pending.

May we add our petition that you sign these bills quoted under the following numbers:

Public Welfare Bill (Seaton) Senate Introductory number 576  
Print numbers 541 and 1243.

Child Marriage bill (H.D. Williams) amending Section 15 of the Domestic Relations Law, requiring the consent of the Judge of the Juvenile court in addition to the consent of parents of girls between the ages of 14 and 18 who desire to marry.  
Senate Introductory number 577, Print number 594.

Thanking you for your attention, we are

Yours very truly,

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE  
of the  
Y. W. C. A.

*Marion Blackwell*  
Per Marion Blackwell  
Executive Secretary

Erie County Probation Department

BUFFALO, N. Y.

EDWARD P. VOLZ, CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

April 1, 1929.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Governor of New York State,  
Albany, New York.

Honorable Sir:-

The Division of Protection and Correction of the Buffalo Council of Social Agencies has been very much interested in two bills recently passed by the Legislature, and sent to you for approval.

I refer especially to the Public Welfare Bill, which was introduced by Senator Fearon - Senate Introductory No. 333, Print No. 341 and 1346. This bill, as you know, has had the support of social agencies all over the State, and is a highly commendable one, and I think is a big step forward in the operation of our present poor laws.

The second bill is known as the Child Marriage Bill, and was introduced by Senator H. D. Williams - Senate Introductory No. 377, Print 394. This bill amends Section 15, of the Domestic Relations Law, in that it requires the consent of a judge of a juvenile court in addition to that of the parents for a girl between 14 and 16 years of age, who wishes to secure a marriage license. This is a very wise provision and various surveys throughout the State and especially in Erie County show the need and wisdom of this provision. In Erie County we have found instances where parents have consented to the marriage of their daughters under 16 years of age in order to get rid of the expense of supporting them, and with little thought for their future welfare. This bill is just another step in safe-guarding the youth of the State. The bill would give the Court a chance to investigate or through a social agency determine the wisdom of the marriage of a girl between 14 and 16 years of age.

As chairman of the Division of Protection and Correction of the Buffalo Council of Social Agencies, I am writing to urge that you sign these two bills, which in my judgment are of vital interest to the citizens of the State.

Respectfully,



Chairman, Division of Protection  
and Correction of the Buffalo  
Council of Social Agencies.

THE CHARITY ORGANIZATION SOCIETY  
OF BUFFALO  
181 FRANKLIN STREET

Buffalo, N. Y. April 1, 1929.

S 333

Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
The Capitol,  
Albany, New York.

Honorable dear Sir:

Realizing the value of your time, I am writing a brief letter to express deep conviction of the merits of the Fearon-Shonk bill (Senate introductory number, 333; print number 341) and further to express the hope that you may approve the bill.

The revision of the old State poor law with its 140 amendments, etc., which the new Public Welfare Law accomplishes, has long been a vital need in the administration of public relief, and this bill has had the advantage of resulting from study and conference with the State Department of Charities, the State Charities Aid Association, and the Association of County Superintendents of the Poor. The bill clarifies the duties of town, city and county officials and makes it possible to work out a comprehensive program of county welfare through a county unit system. It does not force the new plan upon reluctant counties but opens the way for the adoption of the more centralized and better planned administration whenever the Boards of Supervisors are ready. Modern methods of communication and transportation make the county a more feasible unit today than the township was many years ago.

My personal experience has led me to the conclusion that people in small towns and in rural communities do not receive the social service and the relief that they need owing to the lack of a satisfactory public welfare agency. The town is too small a unit with an untrained official giving a small part of his time, to have satisfactory care for its disadvantaged families. With the responsibility for administration centralized in the county official, with full time social workers covering the county, a great improvement I believe will result in care of those who cannot meet life's difficulties by themselves.

The officers of the Society join in this opinion.

Very respectfully,

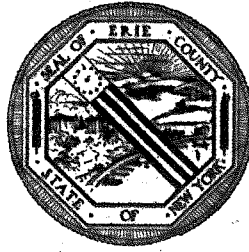
(Mrs.) Anna B. Fox  
Secretary.

ABF/A

# Department of Charities and Corrections

ERIE COUNTY

LEO J. SCHMIDT  
COMMISSIONER  
JAMES C. LEES  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER  
ARTHUR R. GIBSON, M. D.  
COUNTY PHYSICIAN



COUNTY HOME AND INFIRMARY  
COUNTY PENITENTIARY  
COUNTY LODGING HOUSE  
WELFARE DEPARTMENT  
MEDICAL EXAMINER AND MORGUE  
COUNTY FARM, ALDEN, N. Y.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY PHYSICIAN  
134 WEST EAGLE STREET  
BUFFALO, N. Y.

April 2nd, 1929.

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Governor, Executive Mansion,  
Albany, N.Y.

My dear Governor:

Last year a Bill was presented in the Legislature by Senator Fearon and Assemblyman Shonk to revise the Welfare and Poor Laws of the State of New York. Included in that Bill was a paragraph which would have severed the Departments in Erie County. This section was included in the Bill without any request from me or from the members of the Board of Supervisors, or from any local authority whatsoever.

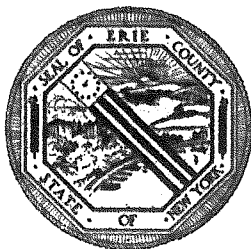
After the Bill was presented in the Legislature, it was then sent to the Board of Supervisors of Erie County, and that was the first official information which the Board had as to the contents of the Bill, and particularly in reference to the section referring to Erie County. The Bill, however, did not become a law, and the Department of Charities and Correction was carried on as usual since the year 1913, when it was organized, and apparently to the satisfaction of the Board of Supervisors and the people at large.

Again this year a similar Bill has been presented to the Legislature and passed by both houses and again this Section referring to Erie County is included. This Bill was introduced, including the Section referring to Erie County, without any request from the Board of Supervisors, or from the Commissioner himself. I also call to your attention the fact that this Bill was not introduced by any Legislators from Erie County. I am quite sure that your Excellency will not believe that this is proper legislation, and that the Section referring to Erie County should become a law.

# Department of Charities and Corrections

ERIE COUNTY

LEO J. SCHMIDT  
COMMISSIONER  
JAMES G. LEES  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER  
ARTHUR R. GIBSON, M. D.  
COUNTY PHYSICIAN



COUNTY HOME AND INFIRMARY  
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BUFFALO, N. Y.

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I am frank to state that this legislation, in reference to Erie County, is spite legislation, and will not work for the benefit of the people of Erie County, as I will point out hereafter. Every one knows that the reason that the provision for Erie County included, is because I am not subservient to any political bosses, and particularly the Chairman of the Erie County Republican Committee and I call your attention to the fact that the Chairman of the Erie County Committee was quoted as stating in the daily press, that he would use his efforts to secure legislation which would disrupt my office.

The reasons for objecting to the Public Welfare Bill herein referred to, insofar as it refers to Erie County, are as follows:

1. In the year 1913 the various Departments now under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Charities and Correction, were separate and in charge of officials who were elected by the people. It appeared at that time that the various Departments would function more economically and with greater efficiency, and to the best interest of the people, if they were consolidated under one head, and in consequence thereof, the Board of Supervisors at that time requested the State Legislature to pass a Bill creating the office of Commissioner of Charities and Correction, amalgamating the various Departments under one head. This Bill was passed and a Commissioner of Charities and Correction has been in charge of the various Departments since that time. The business of the Departments has been handled economically, efficiently and with great success and without any criticism from any one, and there is no reason why the Office of Commissioner of Charities and Correction as now constituted should not continue in full force and effect.



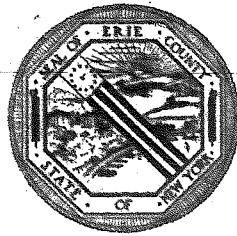
# Department of Charities and Corrections

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2. To substantiate the argument set forth as #1, I call attention to the fact that the jurisdiction of the County Farm was not placed under the Commissioner of Charities and Correction under the Act of 1913, but the Board of Supervisors since that time, realizing that greater efficiency would result by placing the same under the Commissioner who was in charge of the Penitentiary and Home and Infirmary, located at the Farm, the control of the Farm was placed under the Commissioner of Charities and Correction and is now being operated by him. I call attention to the fact that prior to the time that the Commissioner of Charities and Correction had control of the Farm, there was considerable turmoil existing at the Farm and superintendents came and went.

3. The present Commissioner of Charities and Correction was elected for a full term of six years, beginning January 1, 1926 and ending December 31, 1931. At the time of his election the people of Erie County fully understood what the duties of the official were, and elected him to that office with the understanding that he was to be in charge of the various Departments as then constituted. Certainly if any change is contemplated, no change in any of the functions, powers or authorities of an elected official should be made until the expiration of his term, at which time candidates would be able to present themselves to the people for the positions which are then created.

4. Without going into details, the Board of Supervisors is fully aware of the efficiency and economy realized by having the various Departments under one head and their committees have acknowledged the same by refusing to recommend that the control of the Home Infirmary be taken from the Commissioner of Charities and Correction in the Bill just passed, and there are many benefits derived by having the Department of Welfare under the Commissioner of Charities and Correction by reason of the close relationship of the Medical Department and the Home and Infirmary and Lodging House under the control of one official.

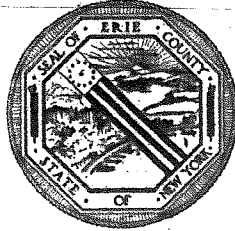
# Department of Charities and Corrections

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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY PHYSICIAN  
134 WEST EAGLE STREET  
BUFFALO, N. Y.

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5. It has been contended that the Welfare Department should be separate from the Department of Corrections, to which I most heartily agree, and I point to the fact that the Department of Welfare is now isolated from any other Departments under the control and jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Charities and Correction by reason of the fact that the Deputy Commissioner in charge of Welfare has no other duties to perform except that which pertains to his Department, and that all employees engaged in the work of the Welfare Department perform no other duties than those pertaining to welfare work and are directly in charge of the Deputy Commissioner of Welfare.

6. The Deputy Commissioner of Welfare, as well as the other Deputy Commissioners, receive their appointment from the Commissioner of Charities and Correction, who is directly responsible to the people of the County. The Deputy's sole purpose is to conduct his Department efficiently and economically as that is the plan laid down by the Commissioner of Charities and correction in Erie County. These Deputies are answerable to no one except the Commissioner, and are not subject to the influence of any one. That was the purpose of the Bill creating the office of the Commissioner of Charities and Correction, whereas under the proposed law the Commissioner of Public Welfare will be appointed by the Board of Supervisors and would be subject to the directions of its fifty four members.

7. Assuming that the writer is in error concerning the separation of the Welfare Department from the other Departments under the control of the Commissioner of Charities and Correction, then and in that event, we should not attempt to take the jurisdiction of the Welfare Department from the people by empowering the Board of Supervisors to make their own appointment, but should create the office so that candidates can present themselves to the electorate and the same should not take effect until the expiration of the present Commissioner of Charities and Corrections' term.

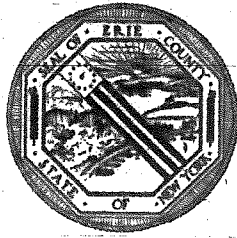
# Department of Charities and Corrections

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BUFFALO, N. Y.

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8. During the administration of the present Commissioner of Charities and Correction the State Department of Charities have at all times complimented the Commissioner upon the manner in which the various Departments were conducted, and at no time suggested the change which is contemplated in the present Welfare Bill.

In conclusion, I trust that your Excellency will give just consideration to the efficiency and economy now prevailing in the Department of the Commissioner of Charities and Correction of Erie County, which it is intended shall be disrupted by the special provisions in the Welfare Bill before you, which have been inserted in the Bill through the efforts of political enemies of the Commissioner.

May I hope that your veto upon this Bill will continue the Erie County Department of Charities and Correction as the department in Westchester County is to be continued, as the people of the whole county would desire.

Sincerely yours,

SARAH SHAFFER, PRESIDENT  
1328 ABBOTT ROAD  
MATILDA FARRELL, VICE-PRESIDENT  
333 ELWOOD AVENUE  
MARGARET HARDY, 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT  
NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.  
MATILDA UEBELHOER, FIN. SEC'Y.  
BOX 142, EBENEZER, N. Y.

EVA H. TRUESDALE, SECRETARY  
49 POTTER AVENUE  
ORCHARD PARK, N. Y.  
MINNIE P. HULBURD, TREASURER  
117 SCHOOL STREET  
NELLIE B. SKINNER, BLD'G. FUND TREAS.  
3154 DELAWARE AVENUE, KENMORE

# Protestant Home For Unprotected Children

Incorporated

605 NIAGARA STREET, COR. JERSEY

Buffalo, N. Y.

TUPPER 6098 PHONES TUPPER 6097

MABEL K. MALLORY  
SUPERINTENDENT

ENDORSED BY

STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES  
BUFFALO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Buffalo, N. Y. Feb. 19, 1929.

Mr. Leo Schmitt,  
Com. of Charities,  
Buffalo, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Schmitt,

Enclosed you will find copy of letter sent to the Governor expressing our opinion on the proposed change in the Department of Charities. Mrs. Shaffer asked that I send you a copy so that you would understand our position in the matter.

With best wishes, we are,

Yours for the Home,

The Board of Directors,

Per. *Matilda S. Uebelhow*

*See last p.*

Copy of letter Sent direct to Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Governor New York,

Protestant Home for Unprotected Children,  
Incorporated,

605 Niagara St., Cor. Jersey.

Buffalo, N.Y.

February 19, 1929.

Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Governor New York State,  
Albany, N.Y.

Dear Honorable Sir:

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of  
this Home, held to-day, it was decided that we are not  
in favor of the proposed amendment as specified in the  
Fearon Bill, which we understand will be up for action in the  
near future. We may also add that the present administration  
is perfectly agreeable to this Board as any change made  
now would not be of any adequate benefit to our Home.

Respectfully submitted,

( signed )

The Board of Directors.

CONRAD J. MEYER

Merchant Tailor  
and Clothier

553 GENESEE STREET, corner Davis

BUFFALO, N. Y.,

Feb. 21, 1929

Leo Schmidt, Commissioner  
of Charities & Corrections  
134 W. Eagle St.  
Buffalo, N. Y.

Hon. Sir:-

In behalf of the Board of Trustees of the St. John's Orphan Home, of which I am an officer, I wish to extend to you, our sincere appreciation of the very pleasant relationship which has existed between your Department of Charities and Corrections and our Orphan Home. Especially, are we pleased with the very ~~and~~ satisfactory manner in which you have conducted the Department of Charity. The needy and the orphans, under your supervision, always get prompt attention and a square deal. In all my 22 years of service as a Trustee, our contact with the Department of Charities and Corrections has never been more pleasant and satisfactory than at the present time.

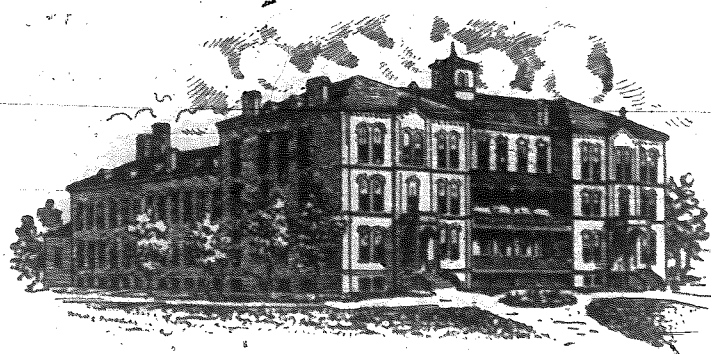
With best wishes for your continued success,  
I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Conrad J. Meyer

Treas.

# Ev. Luth. St. John's Orphan Home



Station D. Buffalo, N. Y.

Feb 21st 1929

Mr Leo Schmidt,  
Commissioner of Charity,  
Buffalo N.Y.

Dear Sir,

We appreciate the kindness you have shown toward our children and the splendid work you have done toward the up lifting and help of the Orphans in Buffalo. We realize your position but feel and know that what you have done for us you have also done for others. We know of no one who we would like to have for Commissioner of Charities as much as you for you was always ready and willing to help at any time. Our Board wishes to thank you for your past favors and wishing you success we remain.

The Board of Trustees of the  
Evan Luth St John's Orphan Home.

*Louis P. Reinman*  
Sect.



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

BOSTON, NEW YORK.

Tuesday Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>. 1929.

Gentleman:-

To whomever this may concern, it is to state, that our present Commissioner of Charities Mr. Geo. Schmidt should under no circumstance be removed from the Welfare department owing to his extraordinary ability in looking after those placed under his supervision.

I have always found this man ready to do all in his power to uplift the down trodden of humanity and with a keen insight to give of his personal gifts to all who are in want. To remove him from this charge, would mean a great loss and I personally believe that it would be a very difficult problem to obtain one to take his place and fulfill the duties in the extraordinary manner, because of the many who seek a position of this kind for worldly interest and money rather than the bringing up of good citizens in this our Empire State.

I do hope that Mr. Geo. Schmidt be retained in his present office for the good of all mankind. I am,

Yours truly,  
Rev. Francis G. Ruby



Evangelical  
Lutheran

# St. John's Church

Nichols Street

Buffalo, New York

PAUL ANDREW KIRSCH  
PASTOR

502 West 16.  
Buffalo, N. Y.  
Oct. 21, 1929.

Mr. Leo J. Schmidt, Commissioner,  
Department of Charities and Correction,  
237 Annex, Buffalo, N. Y.  
My dear Mr. Schmidt:

I bless - blessing my friends tonight while they are  
being during my dark night in Buffalo you have already earned a deep  
note in my affection. What a splendid type of Christian statesmanship you  
bring to the many duties of your important office. The City of Buffalo and  
the County of Erie are to be congratulated on having you with your great  
high being trust as to Commissioner of Charities and Correction. You bring to  
your office real soundness, a spiritual grasp, discerning insight, high quality,  
practical application and popular appeal. Behind these is your strength  
acquaintance with God, large experience of life and broad interests.

I trust you to know that I appreciate a fellow servant of  
your type, and many there are who join me in this.  
With very good wish. Sincerely yours, Paul Andrew Kirsch.

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ST. JOHN'S

MEN'S  
BIBLE  
CLASS

OF THE

Ev. Luth. St. John's Church

285 HICKORY STREET  
BUFFALO, N. Y.

DR. LOUIS J. KNELL  
TEACHER

MEETS EACH SUNDAY MORNING  
AT 9.00 A. M.  
(RAIN OR SHINE)

Feb 24-1929

Mr Leo J. Schmidt

Commissioner of Charities & Corrections

Dear Sir Brother

At a meeting of the class it was  
Resolved - that the class commends you on the  
faithful and Christian spirit that you show  
in the discharge of your duties with justice  
and fairness to all.

Resolved - further that the class hopes and  
prays that you will be permitted to continue  
to administer your office in the further  
and no change be made. This is the prayer  
and hope of the whole class. may our  
Heavenly Father grant ours and your wish and  
prayer.

Yours in Faith

Leo J. Schmidt

Dec 5 1929

# THE MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

CONCORDIA EVAN. LUTH. CHURCH

396 NORTHAMPTON ST.

BUFFALO, N. Y.

Feb. 24, 1929

Leo Schmidt  
Comm. of Charities  
Buffalo, N. Y.

Dear Sir: -

The activities of our Men's Bible Class in its community has given us occasional opportunity to learn something of the work being done for the needy by the Erie County Charities under your supervision. We take pleasure in expressing the fact that the work has been carried out with such thought for the personal and human comfort of those in need and that upon various occasions you have personally given attention to cases in which we as a class have been privileged to lend assistance.

Wishing you further success in your work of mercy, we remain

Concordia Men's Bible Class

Willard A. Harold, Secy

HARMONY SPIRITUALIST CHURCH  
481 Berkshire cor. Suffolk  
BUFFALO, N. Y.

Buffalo N.Y. Feb. 25, 1929

Leo Schmidt  
Commr. of Charities & Corrections  
134 W Eagle St.  
Buffalo N.Y.

My Dear Sir:-

Having heard some of the  
discriminations to the Child welfare ,to which and over which  
it has been the choice of the people and citizens of Buffalo  
to elect you as the proper person to serve in that capacity,  
it is the sense of opinion, of the congregation which I serve  
and myself, that you should be permitted to complete the term  
of office in full for which you have been elected, and we  
sincerely hope and trust that nothing will be left undone so  
as to make it possible for you to serve and continue in the  
good work you are doing.

In full appreciation for the work you have done in the past,  
and with the very best wishes for your success

Remaining Respectfully Yours

*Rev. J. S. Wind*  
*pastor*  
*Harmony Sp. Ch.*

Inmaculate Heart of Mary Orphanage  
William and Kennedy Streets  
Buffalo, N. Y.

William & Kennedy Sts.

Buffalo, N.Y.

February 25, 1929

To whom it may concern:

Acknowledgment is due to the work of the Honorable Leo J. Schmidt, Commissioner of Charities and Corrections of the Erie County in the Children's Welfare Bureau of Erie County, during his term of office. Commissioner Schmidt has devoted himself to the duties of his office conscientiously and efficiently and has conducted the Children's Welfare Bureau in an economical way.

We recommend the continuation of the said bureau because of its satisfactory service to Child Welfare.

Respectfully yours

*Felician Sisters*

Catholic Rectory  
Colden, N. Y.

February, 28, 1929.

To whom it may concern:

For the past twelve years I have been a pastor of the Parish at Colden, N.Y., the boundaries of which include part or all of the towns and villages of Colden, Glenwood, East Concord, Holland, Springville, Boston, East Aurora, West Falls and Orchard Park.

Having at heart the welfare of the people of these communities, I have had many opportunities to call upon the office of the Commissioner of Charity, study it's systematic, just but at the same time charitable deeds.

The speedy assistance offered has been worthy of praise, and there is no other way of accounting for this quick relief, except the close union that in the present management of charity exists between the Commissioner's office and it's various branches.

A Kingdom divided soon falls. A business corporation without a head soon fails, and from my personal experience in these poorer towns of Erie County; I am forced to say, that an office of Charity hampered by the lack of supervision over

Catholic Rectory

Golden, N. Y.

the welfare of it's clients will soon become a useless expense upon the Taxpayers of this community and a source of disruption rather than of help to the families of the poor.

During all the years of the office of Mr. Lee Schmidt, I have found him to be a conscientious broad-minded competent and charitable executive and I hope and trust that he will not be hampered in the just administration of a noble office by a divided department.

Respectfully yours,

90

Rev. Eugene J. Airey  
Box 134  
Golden, N. Y.



St. Peters United Evangelical Church

GENESEE AND HICKORY STREETS

BUFFALO, N. Y. Mar. 6, 1929.

REV. FREDERICK H. KROHNE,  
Pastor

Mr. Leo Schmidt, Commissioner of Charities and Corrections,  
Buffalo, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

Since my arrival in Buffalo and the taking over of the pastorate of St. Peter's United Evangelical Church a month ago, I have heard much about the splendid work being done in Erie County in the Department of Charities and Corrections. I was very happy, therefore, to be able to pay a visit to the Home and Infirmary under the direction of your first assistant, Mr. James Lees. I was very agreeably surprised to find a very modern building erected by Erie County at a cost of over \$2,500,000.00 to properly take care of its wards. I was very favorably impressed by the very efficient management of the Home and Infirmary under the direction of your Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Carl Meyer. On our tour through the building and the various wards, I took special notice of the very cordial relations between wards and your Deputy Commissioner, and the spirit of contentment on the part of the inmates. Your Commissioner was very kind to go into detail with me as to the source of supplies used, the method in handling the commissary, in going over the various menus served from day to day and week to week, and also the item of cost per capita in the management and maintenance of the institution.

I am acquainted with similar institutions in Chicago and St. Louis, both public and private. I am really astonished at what you have been able to do at this institution. You are to be congratulated upon your management of this part of your work and your appointment of Mr. Carl Meyer as Deputy Commissioner. The people of Erie County are to be commended for the splendid work they are doing and should feel grateful to you and Mr. Meyer for the able, efficient and humane administration of this work. The institution is a model which might be accepted as a pattern by other communities. The trip was indeed a pleasure and of much profit to me.

I wish to thank you for the courtesy shown me by your Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Lees, and also by Mr. Meyer.

Assuring you my best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,



FHK/S.



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**CONFERENCE OF MAYORS**

AND

**OTHER MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS  
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
CITY HALL, ALBANY, N. Y.

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April 3, 1929.

S333

My dear Governor:

We beg to inform you that the General Legislative Committee of the Conference has unanimously approved Senate Bill Introductory Number 333, Print Number 1346 by Senator Fearon.

We have made a very careful inquiry and so far as we have been able to learn every objection to the original bill raised by any city has been eliminated by the amendments. All of the cities seem to be satisfied with the bill as before you.

Very truly yours,



Executive Secretary.

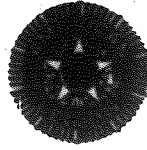
Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Executive Chamber,  
Capitol,  
Albany,  
N. Y.

The American Legion  
Department of New York

Legislative Committee

185 Main Street  
White Plains, N. Y.

Chauncey T. S. Fish  
Chairman



April 3, 1929.

His Excellency, The Governor of the State of New York,  
Capital,  
Albany, N.Y.

Your Excellency:

Senate bill Int. 333, Print 1346, introduced by Mr. Fearon, which is now before you for your action, is a bill that has been sponsored by the American Legion, Department of New York, and has the approval of said organization.

The Veteran Section of this act has received the approval of the Department Legislative Committee. Several changes have been made in the present Poor Law affecting Veterans, which are sorely needed. If any objections are filed against this bill by reason of the provisions of the Veteran Section thereof, the Department Legislative Committee would be pleased to consider said objections and after consideration thereof, advise relative to the position taken by the Department thereon.

Respectfully and fraternally yours,

  
CHAUNCEY T. S. FISH, Chairman Department  
Legislative Committee.

F/R