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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ulster County Legislator Jason Kovacs Applauds Unanimous Passage of Resolution Supporting Reuner Cancer Support House

Ulster County Legislator Jason Kovacs (R/C – Towns of Saugerties, Kingston, and Ulster) today applauded the unanimous passage of his resolution urging the continued operation of the Herbert H. and Sofia P. Reuner Cancer Support House and preservation of cancer support services for residents throughout the region.

The resolution passed the Ulster County Legislature by a unanimous 23-0 vote following bipartisan support in committee and public advocacy from community members, cancer survivors, volunteers, donors, and local officials. “The unanimous vote today sends a very clear message,” said Legislator Jason Kovacs. “The Reuner Cancer Support House is not simply a building. It is a deeply important community institution that has provided compassion, dignity, and emotional support to cancer patients and families during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.”

The Oncology Support Program has operated for more than thirty years, providing support services to cancer patients, survivors, caregivers, and families across the Hudson Valley. The Reuner Cancer Support House itself was made possible through the efforts and generosity of community leaders and donors committed to ensuring these services remained available locally.

Kovacs noted that the issue generated unusually broad bipartisan support throughout the county.

“This was not a Republican issue or a Democratic issue,” Kovacs said. “This was a human issue. Over the past several weeks, legislators heard from constituents across Ulster County who spoke passionately about the importance of this house and the role it has played in their lives, their families, and this community.” Kovacs also emphasized the importance of respecting donor intent and preserving community trust in charitable institutions.

“People donated time, money, energy, and even their homes to create and sustain this program,” Kovacs said. “When charitable gifts are made for a clear public purpose, institutions have a moral responsibility to honor that intent whenever reasonably possible. That principle matters deeply to this community.”

The resolution urges Westchester Medical Center to work in good faith to preserve the property’s use for cancer support services and recognizes the important role the facility has played in the emotional and practical support of local residents facing cancer diagnoses and treatment.

“I think many people increasingly worry that healthcare systems have become so large and financially driven that smaller community institutions focused on emotional support and human connection are viewed as expendable,” Kovacs said. “The Legislature spoke with one voice today in recognizing that places like the Reuner Cancer Support House still matter.”