

April 14, 2020

Senator Chuck Schumer Senator Kirsten Gillibrand United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Anthony Brindisi	Rep. John Katko	Rep. Tom Reed
Rep. Yvette Clarke	Rep. Peter King	Rep. Kathleen Rice
Rep. Alexandria Ocasio	Rep. Nita Lowey	Rep. Max Rose
Cortez	Rep. Carolyn Maloney	Rep. José Serrano
Rep. Antonio Delgado	Rep. Sean Maloney	Rep. Elise Stefanik
Rep. Eliot Engel	Rep. Gregory Meeks	Rep. Thomas Suozzi
Rep. Adriano Espaillat	Rep. Grace Meng	Rep. Paul Tonko
Rep. Brian Higgins	Rep. Joseph Morelle	Rep. Nydia Velázquez
Rep. Hakeem Jeffries	Rep. Jerry Nadler	Rep. Lee Zeldin
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United States House of Representatives

Ford House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the New York Congressional Delegation:

We write to you today first to thank you, on behalf of our constituents and all New Yorkers for your crucially important assistance during the COVID-19 global pandemic. Your votes and advocacy for the recently passed stimulus package—the biggest economic rescue package in American history—will save lives and assist all of the individuals and families we have the privilege of representing. We are indebted to you for your work.

The economic consequences of this pandemic have placed significant burdens on New York State, and our tax revenues for the state and our localities have plummeted as a result. New York State alone now faces a budget deficit of between \$10 and \$15 billion, with local governments experiencing significant shortfalls as well. It is therefore incumbent upon us to ask for your assistance once again.

In order to help our constituents and all New Yorkers weather this pandemic and follow the direction of our Governor, Mayors, County Executives and healthcare experts, we are requesting a substantial infusion of federal funds specifically for rent subsidies.

As you are more than aware, significant measures to require and promote "social distancing," "self-quarantine" and "flattening the curve" have been put into place to help slow the spread of the virus.

We believe that giving those who are currently homeless an opportunity to obtain and stay in permanent housing must be a primary focus of our response to the pandemic in New York State. It is equally urgent to support all those who are now at risk of displacement from their homes by investing in existing housing, and providing both project- and tenant-based rental assistance for the hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers who can no longer afford the rent.

We have implemented stop gap measures, like the current 3-month moratorium placed on evictions. However, without a significant infusion of federal funding for housing measures—such as the emergency rental assistance program proposed in State bill S8140A/A10248—there will be a dramatic and dangerous increase in the number of New York State residents who lose their housing.

This would compound the current homelessness crisis in New York State, which is already worse than at any time since the Great Depression, with 252,977 individuals including 148,554 children experiencing homelessness in the last full school year. It would also make it far more difficult for New Yorkers who have lost their jobs to get back to work and for the economy to recover after this unprecedented crisis.

The very real prospect of allowing so many New Yorkers to be displaced from their homes and homelessness to grow runs counter to the difficult measures we have put in place to completely halt the spread - the primary goal in fighting an epidemic or pandemic - and also to our efforts to merely slow or mitigate the outbreak. If New York State does not implement a robust program of rental assistance in the next few months, we believe the consequences for our constituents and all New Yorkers will be dire.

We cannot allow this to happen.

We therefore respectfully request that you and all of our colleagues in the federal government use the resources at your disposal to create an additional round of federal stimulus funding that specifically infuses housing and rental assistance into New York State. Estimates are that we need at least \$100 billion in rental assistance for the nation, and we know in New York alone we will need at least ten percent of that just to serve those with the most serious housing cost burdens.

Thank you for your leadership and your incredible efforts to protect all New Yorkers during this global crisis.

Sincerely,

Andrew D. Hevesi, 28th AD Steven Cymbrowitz, 45th AD

Brian Kavanagh, 26th SD Roxanne Persaud, 19th SD

Municipal Elected Officials

New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer

New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

Bronx Borough President Rubén Diaz Jr.

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer

Queens Borough President Sharon Lee

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro

Rockland County Executive Ed Day Monroe County Executive Adam Bello

Beatriz Lebron, Rochester City School District Commissioner

New York State Assembly Members

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Anthony Palumbo, 2nd AD

Steven Englebright, 4th AD

Philip Ramos, 6th AD

Steve Stern, 10th AD

Kimberley Jean-Pierre, 11th AD

Charles Lavine, 13th AD

Anthony D'Urso, 16th AD

Michaelle Solages, 22nd AD

David Weprin, 24th AD

Nily Rozic, 25th AD

Edward Braunstein, 26th AD

Daniel Rosenthal, 27th AD

Alicia Hyndman, 29th AD

Brian Barnwell, 30th AD

Clyde Vanel, 33rd AD

Michael DenDekker, 34th AD

Jeffrion Aubry, 35th AD

New York State Senators

Anna Kaplan, 7th SD

John Brooks, 8th SD

John Liu, 11th SD

Jessica Ramos, 13th SD

Leroy Comrie, 14th SD

Joseph Addabbo Jr, 15th SD

Toby Ann Stavisky, 16th SD

Julia Salazar, 20th SD

Kevin Parker, 21st SD

Andrew Gounardes, 22nd SD

Diane Savino, 23rd SD

Brad Hoylman, 27th SD

Liz Krueger, 28th SD

Jose Serrano, 29th SD

Brian Benjamin, 30th SD

Robert Jackson, 31st SD

Luis Sepúlveda, 32nd SD

Gustavo Rivera, 33rd SD

Alessandra Biaggi, 34th SD

Shelley Mayer, 37th SD

James Skoufis, 39th SD

Neil Breslin, 44th SD

Rachel May, 53rd SD

Timothy Kennedy, 63rd SD

New York City Council Members

Margaret Chin, 1st CD

Carlina Rivera, 2nd CD

Keith Powers, 4th CD

Ben Kallos, 5th CD

Helen Rosenthal, 6th CD

Diana Ayala, 8th CD

Andy King, 12th CD

Mark Gjonaj, 13th CD

Fernando Cabrera, 14th CD

Ritchie Torres, 15th CD

Vanessa Gibson, 16th CD

Paul Vallone, 19th CD

Peter Koo, 20th CD

Aravella Simotas, 36th AD Catherine Nolan, 37th AD Michael Miller, 38th AD Catalina Cruz, 39th AD Ron Kim, 40th AD Rodneyse Bichotte, 42nd AD Diana Richardson, 43rd AD Robert Carroll, 44th AD Mathlyde Frontus, 46th AD Simcha Eichstein, 48th AD Joseph Lentol, 50 ADth Félix Ortiz, 51st AD Jo Ann Simon, 52nd AD Maritza Davila, 53rd AD Tremaine Wright, 56th AD Walter Mosley, 57th AD N. Nick Perry, 58th AD Charles Barron, 60th AD Charles Fall, 61st AD Yuh-Line Niou, 65th AD Deborah Glick, 66th AD Linda Rosenthal, 67th AD Daniel O'Donnell, 69th AD Inez Dickens, 70th AD Al Taylor, 71st AD Carmen De La Rosa, 72nd AD Dan Quart, 73rd AD Harvey Epstein, 74th AD Richard Gottfried, 75th AD Rebecca Seawright, 76th AD Latoya Joyner, 77th AD Michael Blake, 79th AD Nathalia Fernandez, 80th AD Jeffrey Dinowitz, 81st AD Marcos Crespo, 85th AD Karines Reves, 87th AD Nader Sayegh, 90th AD Steven Otis, 91st AD Tom Abinanti, 92nd AD

Ellen Jaffee, 97th AD

Franciso Mova, 21st CD Costa Constantinides, 22nd CD Barry Grodenchik 23rd CD Adrienne Adams, 28th CD Karen Koslowitz, 29th CD Robert Holden, 30th CD Donovan Richards, 31st CD Stephen Levin, 33rd CD Antonio Reynoso, 34th CD Laurie Cumbo, 35th CD Robert Cornegy Jr., 36th CD Brad Lander, 39th CD Alicka Ampry-Samuel, 41st CD Inez Barron, 42nd CD Justin Brannan, 43rd CD Farah Louis, 45th CD Alan Maisel, 46th CD Deborah Rose, 49th CD

Rochester City Council Members

Loretta Scott, President
Willie Lightfoot, Vice President
Mary Lupien, East District
Jose Peo, Northwest District
Michael Patterson, Northeast District
LaShay Harris, South District
Mitch Gruber, Council At Large
Malik Evans, Council At Large
Jacklyn Ortiz, Council At Large

<u>Organizations</u>

Access to Independence of Cortland
County
ACT UP NY
AIM Independent Living Center
Association for a Better Long Island
Association of New York State
Barrier Free Living Family of
Companies
Care for the Homeless

Kenneth Zebrowski Jr, 96th AD
Aileen Gunther, 100th AD
Kevin Cahill, 103rd AD
Jonathan Jacobson, 104th AD
John T. McDonald III, 108th AD
Patricia Fahy, 109th AD
Carrie Woerner, 113th AD
Marianne Buttenschon, 119th AD
Donna Lupardo, 123rd AD
Barbara Lifton, 125th AD
Al Stirpe, 127th AD
Pamela Hunter, 128th AD
Harry Bronson, 138th AD
Pat Burke, 142nd AD
Sean Ryan, 149th AD

Center for Disability Rights Center for Independence of the Disabled NY (CIDNY)

Chinese-American Planning Council

Citizen Action of New York

Citizens' Committee for Children

COFFCA

Community Preservation

Corporation

Consumer Directed Personal

Assistance

Empire State Indivisible

Greater NY Labor-Religion Coalition

Greater NYC for Change

Greater Syracuse Tenant's Network

Homeless Services United (HSU)

Housing Court Answers

Housing Works

Human Services Council

Independent Living

Interfaith Assembly on

Homelessness and Housing

Legal Aid Society

Long Island Builders Institute

Long Island Center for Independent Living

Long Island Coalition for the Homeless

Morningside Heights Resistance

Neighbors Together

New Destiny Housing

New York Housing Conference

New York Legal Assistance Group

(NYLAG)

New York State Catholic Conference

New York State Coalition Against

Domestic Violence (NYSCADV)

Northern Regional Center for Independence

NYC Democratic Socialists of America

NYS Association for Affordable Housing

NYS Council of Churches

Prevent Child Abuse NY

Rent Stabilization Association (RSA)

Resource Center for Accessible

Living, Inc

Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy

Settlement Housing Fund, Inc

Southern Tier Independence Center

Strong Economy for All

Supportive Housing Network of N

Tenants PAC

The Building & Realty Institute

The Coalition for the Homeless

The Real Estate Board of NY

(REBNY)

The South Bronx Community Congress

Treatment Action Group

United Neighborhood Housing

Urban Justice Center Safety Net

Project

VOCAL-NY

Welfare Rights Initiative

Westchester & the Mid-Hudson

Region Institute

Western NY Independent Living, Inc