



STATE OF NEW YORK

April 14, 2020

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

Rep. Anthony Brindisi
Rep. Yvette Clarke
Rep. Alexandria Ocasio
Cortez
Rep. Antonio Delgado
Rep. Eliot Engel
Rep. Adriano Espaillat
Rep. Brian Higgins
Rep. Hakeem Jeffries

Rep. John Katko
Rep. Peter King
Rep. Nita Lowey
Rep. Carolyn Maloney
Rep. Sean Maloney
Rep. Gregory Meeks
Rep. Grace Meng
Rep. Joseph Morelle
Rep. Jerry Nadler

Rep. Tom Reed
Rep. Kathleen Rice
Rep. Max Rose
Rep. José Serrano
Rep. Elise Stefanik
Rep. Thomas Suozzi
Rep. Paul Tonko
Rep. Nydia Velázquez
Rep. Lee Zeldin

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

Fred Thiele, 1st AD
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
Michaëlle 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 Reyes, 87th AD
Nader Sayegh, 90th AD
Steven Otis, 91st AD
Tom Abinanti, 92nd AD
Ellen Jaffee, 97th AD

Franciso Moya, 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

Organizations

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