

Hello members of the Senate and Assembly my name is Judith Douglas and I live at 249 E 37th St, and am a leader of my building's tenant association. I am here [today](#) to talk about what a real recovery for tenants and homeless New Yorkers looks like. We were already in a housing crisis before COVID hit, and now we have the opportunity to turn our back on millions letting them be evicted, or stand up and pass housing justice for all.

Like so many tenants, I am organizing with my neighbors to demand our basic rights as tenants to safe conditions are met. We have for years suffered under a landlord who cares more about his money than how we live. No More!

As a leader in the Housing Justice for All Coalition, I have been fighting for real support and reform within HCR. This budget season, more than most, I urge you to make additional funds for HCR specifically to improve and make more accessible their direct services to New York renters seeking enforcement of their basic Tenants' Rights

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- The current budget allocations
- for HCR ORA will not be sufficient to:
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 - Lower wait times for tenants applying
 - for tenant initiated complaints (Rent Overcharge, Rent Reduction, Lease Complaints, etc.)
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 - Make the necessary technology
 - upgrades to serve New Yorkers who speak languages other than English as is their right
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 - Make the necessary technology
 - upgrades to improve data collection and transparency needed to comply with HSTPA 2019
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 - Better serve the millions of New
 - Yorkers who made historic gains in Tenants' Rights through the passing of HSTPA 2019
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- This is a critical time where

- New Yorkers are struggling to maintain safe and adequate housing and the wraparound services that DHCR provides from dealing with rent issues, to repairs, harassment, and more, need to be made accessible to the most vulnerable members of our community
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We tenants are standing up in my building and across the state to protect one another. But we cannot do it alone. We need a fully funded HCR to ensure landlords are held accountable and the hard fought victories we won, like the 2019 rent laws, are fully enforced to the letter of the law.