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CIDNY's Testimony on Housing FY 24-25 Housing Budget Hearing

The Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY) is the voice of people with disabilities in New York City. We are a nonprofit organization founded in 1978. We are part of the Independent Living Centers movement, a national network of grassroots and community-based organizations that enhance opportunities for people with disabilities to direct their own lives. We hereby testify our support for the bills below.

CIDNY supports (A1625 Simon/S763 Krueger)

CIDNY supports the creation of minimum standards for the design and construction of new homes that receive state or federal assistance to make them more accessible for people with disabilities.

CIDNY supports (A1493/S2721 May):

CIDNY supports establishing the New York State Office of Civil Representation to provide access to legal services in eviction proceedings. Eviction proceedings and displacement because of evictions have a profoundly disparate impact on low-income individuals, and particularly on low-income people of color, who are disproportionately the respondents in eviction proceedings. It is imperative that these individuals be provided legal representation in legal proceedings that put their housing at risk. There is a fundamental human right to adequate housing accommodations. Safe, secure, and accessible housing is essential to achieving equal access to all other fundamental needs. Without housing, individuals and families too often cannot preserve family integrity, gain employment or other income, or enjoy access to healthcare, proper nutrition, and education.

CIDNY supports (A4993 Rosenthal L./S3254 Hoylman-Sigal)

This amends the real property actions and proceedings law, in relation to adjournments relating to the right to counsel. In any jurisdiction in which a party is eligible under local law for free legal counsel, if such party has in good faith attempted to secure such counsel and is unable to obtain counsel through no fault of their own, the court shall adjourn the trial of the issue for consecutive periods of not less than 14 days each until the party is able to secure counsel.

CIDNY supports (A4093 Kelles/S1403 Myrie)



This establishes the “Winter Moratorium on evictions act” to prohibit eviction of tenants from residential properties during the winter months. If a tenant is to be evicted, the tenant cannot be evicted during the winter months. This bill amends the

Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law to allow a moratorium to stay court eviction judgments to allow individuals to remain housed during harsh inclement winter weather months.

This testimony is supported by Sharon McLennon Wier, Ph.D., MEd., CRC, LMHC, the Executive Director of CIDNY.

Sincerely,

Mbacke Thiam, He/Him/His

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