



MANHATTAN | 1010 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 301, New York, NY 10018
tel: 212.674.2300 fax: 212.254.5953 vp: 646.350.2681
QUEENS | 80-02 Kew Gardens Road, Suite 400, Kew Gardens, NY 11415
tel: 646.442.1520 fax: 357.561.4883
www.cidny.org

CIDNY Testimony on Housing Budget Hearing

Center for the Independence of the Disabled, NY (CIDNY) is 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. CIDNY is the voice of people with disabilities in the five boroughs of New York City. In this executive budget hearing, we hereby testify to strongly support the budget and legislative asks below.

CIDNY supports Visit-ability of New Homes S656, 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.

CIDNY supports Right to Counsel: (S6772, Jackson/A4669, Solages)

CIDNY supports the establishment of the civil right to counsel in eviction proceedings in New York State; the creation of the New York State Office of Civil Representation; and the requirement that covered individuals receive notice of such right to counsel.

CIDNY supports Extreme Weather Tenant Protection Act (A9033, Tapia/S8960, Bailey). This legislation prohibits evicting tenants from residential properties during the winter months.

CIDNY supports SCRIE and DRIE Priority Bills: The Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) programs help eligible seniors and people with disabilities freeze their rents at affordable levels by covering increases through property tax credits for landlords, preventing displacement from rising housing costs.

- S1457A / A5344 (Kavanagh / Glick): Would increase the maximum income threshold for SCRIE, DRIE, SCHE and DHE eligibility to \$67,000 and index it to inflation thereafter
- S3563 (Cleare): Permits other qualifying members of a household to qualify the household for DRIE when they are not the head of household.
- S2451A / A7729 (Kavanagh / Lasher): Would permit localities to opt to reduce payments toward rent to one-third of renters' household income for SCRIE/DRIE.
- S4252 (Parker): Provides for a continuation of senior citizen rent increase exemption benefits after a period of ineligibility due to a head of household's temporary increase in income

- S2534 / A7851 (Sanders / Rosenthal): Would set SCRIE/DRIE tenant contribution to rent at the later of the original date of eligibility or two years before application to the program is approved.
- S561 / A1863 (Krueger / Rosenthal): Would require notice to be sent to eligible tenants regarding the SCRIE and DRIE programs.
- S3742A / A1563A (Cleare / Rosenthal): Information to be provided with all new and renewal leases for certain housing accommodations.
- S4805 / A4984 (Ryan / Buttenschon): Requires the state to handle the income verification process for the purposes of the senior citizen tax exemption.