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. 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
- Michaeelle 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, 50th AD
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
Francisco 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