



October 25, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of the State of New York
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

For more than 40 years, New York’s bedrock Right to Shelter has served as an inviolable baseline of decency, ensuring that those without homes are not relegated to sleeping on the streets, exposed to the elements. It is because of this critical right that New York City does not have the vast tent encampments seen in so many other cities around the country.

As winter approaches, and as New York City is increasingly subject to extreme weather, it is vital that the Right to Shelter stay in place. This basic policy saves lives and is integral to the humanity of our community. In a recent editorial, [the New York Times opined](#): lifting Right to Shelter would “risk the city’s quality of life, its economy and, principally, the lives and dignity of the thousands of vulnerable people who may be forced to live on the streets.”

Despite the clear benefits of this policy, [your administration](#) is supporting the City’s effort to roll back Right to Shelter. As members of the New York State legislature who represent a diverse array of communities across New York State, we respectfully call on you to stop supporting efforts to weaken or in any way undermine New York’s legal Right to Shelter. We believe that rolling back the Right to Shelter would put countless vulnerable people at risk of grave harm and could forever change the landscape of New York in unpredictable and deleterious ways.

While we would like to see the Right to Shelter in New York City protected, we know that the Right to Shelter is not a permanent solution for our City and State’s ongoing housing crises. The demand for affordable housing is outstripping the supply. We also know that new arrivals seeking a better life will continue to come to New York. In the coming legislative session, we are eager to work together to fight for sensible housing policies – like rental assistance, tenant protections, and an increase in affordable housing supply – that will take the strain off our City and State shelter systems and make our New York more livable for all.

We stand ready to work with you to ensure that people in need are not left to live, or die, on the streets of New York City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zellnor Y. Myrie'.

Hon. Zellnor Y. Myrie, 20th SD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda B. Rosenthal'.

Hon. Linda B. Rosenthal, 67th AD



Hon. Brian Kavanagh, 27th SD



Hon. Samra Brouk, 55th SD



Hon. Jose Serrano, 29th SD



Hon. Liz Krueger, 28th SD



Hon. Jabari Brisport, 25th SD



Hon. Cordelle Cleare, 30th SD



Hon. Kristen Gonzalez, 59th SD



Hon. Jessica Ramos, 13th SD



Hon. Julia Salazar, 18th SD



Hon. Jamaal Bailey, 36th SD



Hon. Shelley Mayer, 37th SD



Hon. Robert Jackson, 31st SD



Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, 47th SD



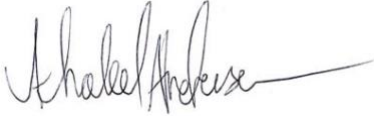
Hon. Kevin Parker, 21st SD



Hon. Gustavo Rivera, 33rd SD



Hon. Michelle Hinchey, 41st SD



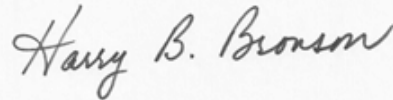
Hon. Khaleel Anderson, 31st AD



Hon. Juan Ardila, 37th AD



Hon. Alex Bores, 73rd AD



Hon. Harry Bronson, 138th AD



Hon. Chris Burdick, 93rd AD



Hon. Robert Carroll, 44th AD



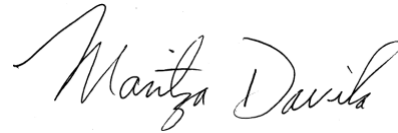
Hon. Sarah Clark, 136th AD

Vivian Cook

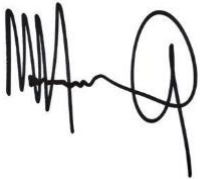
Hon. Vivian Cook, 32nd AD



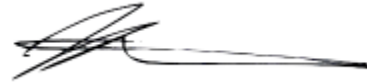
Hon. Catalina Cruz, 39th AD



Hon. Maritza Davila, 53rd AD



Hon. Manny De Los Santos, 72nd AD



Hon. Harvey Epstein, 74th AD



Hon. Phara Forrest, 57th AD



Hon. Emily Gallagher, 50th AD



Hon. Edward Gibbs, 68th AD



Hon. Deborah Glick, 66th AD



Hon. Jessica González-Rojas, 34th AD



Hon. Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD



Hon. Anna Kelles, 125th AD



Hon. Dana Levenberg, 95th AD



Hon. Zohran Mamdani, 36th AD



Hon. Marcela Mitaynes, 51st AD



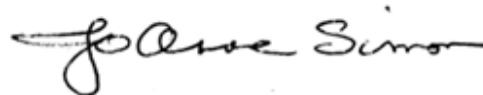
Hon. Steven Raga, 30th AD



Hon. Rebecca Seawright, 76th AD



Hon. Sarahana Shrestha, 103rd AD



Hon. Jo Anne Simon, 52nd AD



Hon. Tony Simone, 75th AD



Hon. Yudelka Tapia, 86th AD



Hon. Al Taylor, 71st AD