February 27, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
New York State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224  

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As Members of Congress representing New York, we write in support of the Home Stability Support (HSS) program. HSS is a new statewide rent supplement for families and individuals who are eligible for public assistance benefits and facing eviction, homelessness or loss of housing due to domestic violence or hazardous living conditions.

The growing crisis of homelessness must be a priority. The number of homeless New Yorkers in the city rivals the populations of some of our state’s large cities. Even worse, children represent the greatest demographic increase in our homeless population, subjecting them to additional significant risks and creating a lifetime of challenges.

The HSS program is a cost-effective means to prevent homelessness. It will provide rent supplements to bridge the gap between the current shelter allowance and 85 percent of the local fair market rent as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This much-needed program will keep families and individuals in their homes and out of homeless shelters, provide relief to communities across the state by stabilizing families and reduce costs to taxpayers by preventing evictions.

As Members of the New York delegation, we urge you to fully fund the HSS program in the upcoming fiscal year’s budget. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress