



**Memorandum in Support**  
**April 29, 2019**

**Re: A.1620** (HEVESI, BARRON, GOTTFRIED, D'URSO, BRAUNSTEIN, ORTIZ, BARNWELL, QUART, NIOU, PAULIN, ENGLEBRIGHT, SIMON, ROZIC, MOSLEY, LUPARDO, SIMOTAS, RA, B. MILLER, HUNTER, O'DONNELL, GIGLIO, ABINANTI, DICKENS, RAIA, SEAWRIGHT, JAFFEE, FAHY, M. G. MILLER, WEPRIN, PEOPLES-STOKES, JEAN-PIERRE, AUBRY, DENDEKKER, VANEL, M. L. MILLER, COLTON, CYMBROWITZ, TAYLOR, SANTABARBARA, GARBARINO, GUNTHER, CRESPO, DE LA ROSA, RAMOS, ARROYO, WRIGHT, BLAKE, PICHARDO, BENEDETTO, DAVILA, COOK, LIFTON, RIVERA, STIRPE, BICHOTTE, JOYNER, FERNANDEZ, BARRETT, KOLB, DILAN, DINOWITZ, FINCH, MORINELLO, PHEFFER AMATO, THIELE, EPSTEIN, RYAN, L. ROSENTHAL, REYES, EICHENSTEIN, BRONSON, PRETLOW, D. ROSENTHAL, BUTTENSCHON, MCDONALD, BLANKENBUSH, PALMESANO, JONES, HYNDMAN, ASHBY, OTIS, JACOBSON, WILLIAMS, ABBATE, RODRIGUEZ, CRUZ, PERRY, ZEBROWSKI, KIM, FALL, RICHARDSON, TITUS, LAVINE, ROMEO, CARROLL, GLICK, BURKE, WOERNER, NOLAN, WALKER, FRONTUS, GANTT, MCMAHON, RAYNOR, SAYEGH, STEC, STECK, STERN, WALLACE  
M-S: Brabenec, Cahill, DeStefano, DiPietro, Fitzpatrick, Friend, Galef, Lentol, Manktelow, McDonough, Montesano, Salka, Solages, Walsh)

**S.2375** (KRUEGER, ADDABBO, BAILEY, BIAGGI, BRESLIN, CARLUCCI, COMRIE, FELDER, GIANARIS, GOUNARDES, HARCKHAM, HOYLMAN, JACKSON, KAVANAGH, KENNEDY, LIU, MAY, METZGER, MONTGOMERY, MYRIE, PARKER, PERSAUD, RAMOS, RIVERA, SALAZAR, SAVINO, SEPULVEDA, SERRANO, SKOUFIS, STAVISKY, THOMAS)

*AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to home stability support programs*

Neighbors Together strongly supports this New York State legislation, which was developed to prevent homelessness and its most solvable causes through the provision of state and federally funded rent supplements for public assistance households. Neighbors Together is a dynamic soup kitchen, social service and advocacy center committed to ending hunger and poverty in the Ocean Hill, Brownsville and Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhoods of Brooklyn, New York. We run multiple community organizing campaigns centered on ending homelessness and increasing access to safe, dignified affordable housing for extremely low-income, low-income and working class New Yorkers.

Neighbors Together has been signed on in support of the Home Stability Support (HSS) proposal for over two years, advocated our state legislators for its passage, and participated in actions in support of the legislation. The bill has strong support in both chambers and bipartisan cosponsors, as well as from advocacy groups across New York: The Upstate Downstate Housing Alliance, a statewide coalition of advocacy organizations, tenants, homelessness New Yorkers and other stakeholders supports Home Stability Support. Additionally many NYC elected officials, over 140 NYC community groups, and faith leaders are in support of HSS.

The bill would create a new Section 131-bb of the Social Services Law to authorize the provision of rent supplements to those public assistance households who are homeless, as well as those at risk of becoming homeless due to eviction, domestic violence, or hazardous conditions in the home. Home Stability Support housing assistance would significantly increase the number of safe permanent housing options available to these households by raising the level of the voucher. HSS would help thousands of individuals and families remain in community, help thousands of homeless New Yorkers relocate from costly shelters, alleviate overcrowding and double-ups, and reduce unsafe living in apartments with many NYC Department of Building Code violations. Those who are unstably housed and homeless need homes now and cannot afford market rent.

New York State Home Stability Support will allow low-income people to remain in their community, prevent evictions, and house homeless New Yorkers. Equity in housing for Public Assistance recipients will not be a reality until there is HSS a program that increases the long-standing shelter allowance allotment of \$215.00. HSS would also offer support services to help individuals and families find and keep their homes.

There are over 89,000 homeless people living in shelters across the state—the highest number ever recorded. While most attention has been focused on New York City--where over 63,000 people sleep in shelters each night--communities across the state have faced massive increases in homelessness. Based on City and State reports 23,000 more New Yorkers become homeless each year than exit homelessness. This level of homelessness is unsustainable and far too costly for the poorest New Yorkers and taxpayers alike.

Ultimately, HSS would more than pay for itself in savings from reduced evictions, shorter shelter stays, reduced public service costs associated with homelessness, and increased housing stability for public assistance households.

HSS is a critical step forward in addressing the homeless crisis in New York State. Neighbors Together supports this legislation and urges its adoption!

For further information please contact:

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