



12 w 37th street, 7th floor
new york, ny 10018

new destiny
housing

Memorandum in Support
February 7, 2020

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, DARLING, FRONTUS, GANTT, MAGNARELLI, MCMAHON, SAYEGH, STEC, STECK, STERN, WALLACE; M-S: Brabenec, Cahill, DeStefano, DiPietro, Fitzpatrick, Friend, Galef, Griffin, Lentol, Manktelow, McDonough, Montesano, Salka, Solages, Tague, Walsh)

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

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

New Destiny Housing Corporation is a 26-year-old non-profit dedicated to ending the cycle of violence for low income families and individuals at risk of homelessness and domestic violence by connecting them to safe, permanent housing and services. We strongly support Home Stability Support (HSS), the proposed 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. It is widely supported by dozens of members of the Legislature from both houses and both sides of the aisle, as well as scores of other elected officials at every level of government, and over 140 community groups and faith leaders.

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, hazardous conditions in the home, and most importantly for a large segment of the homeless population, domestic violence. By providing housing assistance to help these households afford market rents, the program would help thousands of individuals and families to retain their homes, and at the same time help thousands of others to relocate from costly shelters, crowded double-ups, and places unfit for human habitation, to homes of their own. It would also offer support services to help individuals and families find and keep their homes, and for families fleeing domestic violence, prevent or shorten a shelter stay.

There are over 63,600 homeless people staying in NYC shelters each night and 250,000 homeless people statewide each year. A major driver of the family homelessness crisis is domestic violence, accounting for more than 40 percent of the family population entering New York City's largest shelter system in FY 2018. All too often, victims of domestic violence do not have access to housing resources that would could help them find safe housing. By offering rental subsidies to families fleeing unsafe situations, HSS will help prevent homelessness and shorten the time that families are in a shelter.

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.

By preventing and resolving homelessness simultaneously, HSS would have the power to reduce the number of people in shelters by 60 percent in NYC, and foster true housing stability for those whose homelessness is rooted in the economics of private housing costs that far exceed the incomes of those receiving public assistance.

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.

For the foregoing reasons, New Destiny strongly favors this legislation and urges its adoption.

For additional information please contact:

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