



Memorandum in Support

February 26, 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 M-S: Brabenec, Cahill, DeStefano, Fitzpatrick, Friend, Galef, Lentol, Manktelow, McDonough, Montesano, Salka, Solages, Stec, Walsh)

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

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

The Right to Counsel NYC Coalition strongly supports this 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.

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. By providing housing assistance to these households, they could afford market rents. HSS would help thousands of individuals and families remain in community, and help thousands of New Yorkers escape homelessness, alleviate overcrowding and double-ups, and reduce to dependence of living in unsafe conditions. The legislation is widely supported by members of the Albany Legislature from both houses and both sides of the aisle. Additionally, dozens of New York City elected officials, over 140 community groups and faith leaders are in support of HSS.

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.



New York State must aid in reducing homelessness in New York City and statewide. 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 bold step forward to confront record homelessness. The Right to Counsel NYC Coalition strongly supports this legislation and urges its adoption.

For further information, please contact:

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