



**UNITED  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
HOUSES**

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**Memorandum in Support**  
**S.2375 (Krueger) /A.1620 (Hevesi)**  
**Home Stability Support (HSS)**

United Neighborhood Houses (UNH) supports S.2375 (Krueger) /A.1620 (Hevesi), which would amend the social services law to create the Home Stability Support program (HSS). HSS would be a new statewide rent supplement for families and individuals who are eligible for public assistance benefits and who also face eviction, homelessness, or loss of housing due to a domestic violence or hazardous living conditions.

New York is facing a housing affordability crisis. A lack of housing for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers has led to over 150,000 homeless children across the state, the highest number in history. Another 80,000 families are on the brink of homelessness, and about 23,000 more people become homeless every year. Furthermore, shelter allowances are inadequate – two-thirds of households receiving public assistance have rents that exceed their shelter allowance budget. HSS would consolidate the State's spending on these inadequate housing programs and raise the rental allowance to 85% of the fair market rent (FMR) determined by HUD. Local districts would have the option to participate in the program, leveraging their current spending on rental supplements to raise the HSS voucher amount to 100% FMR.

HSS will keep families and individuals on public assistance in their homes and out of homeless shelters by providing sufficient rental and, in some cases, heating assistance while significantly reducing costs to the state and taxpayers by preventing evictions, reducing emergency shelter utilization and reducing the costs of other homeless services.

Homelessness in New York State has reached crisis levels. It is time to boldly and adequately attack the preventable causes of this record homelessness. HSS is the only viable solution to the homeless crisis facing our state, and for that reason UNH strongly supports HSS as the best solution for New York's children and families.

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*UNH is a policy and social change organization representing 43 neighborhood settlement houses that reach 765,000 New Yorkers from all walks of life. A progressive leader for more than 100 years, UNH is stewarding a new era for New York's settlement house movement. We mobilize our members and their communities to advocate for good public policies and promote strong organizations and practices that keep neighborhoods resilient and thriving for all New Yorkers. UNH leads advocacy and partners with our members on a broad range of issues including civic and community engagement, neighborhood affordability, healthy aging, early childhood education, adult literacy, and youth development.*