



Memorandum in Support
A.1620 Hevesi/S.2375 Krueger

Inadequate and unstable housing disproportionately impacts children and women. Over 200,000 children are currently either homeless or on the brink of homelessness.¹ Children who experience abuse and women who experience domestic violence often flee their homes, ending up in ongoing transitional situations. Runaway youth, often abuse survivors, are re-traumatized when they are solicited for sex within 72 hours on the street².

Stable housing is also an important factor in ensuring family stability and preventing abuse in the first place. Worries about paying rent or a mortgage can be stressful for families. An example of housing instability and its ensuing stressors negatively impacting families is the foreclosure and delinquent mortgage crisis in 2008, when hospital admissions for child abuse increased.³

We urge New York State to invest \$200 million, phased in over five years, in the Home Stability Support program. This initiative creates a statewide rent supplement for families and individuals who are eligible for public assistance benefits and who are facing eviction, homelessness, or loss of housing due to domestic violence or hazardous living conditions. The supplements will be a bridge between the current shelter allowance and 85% of the fair market rent determined by HUD.

¹ www.homestabilitysupport.com

² "Trafficking and Runaway Youth". <http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/book/export/html/573>.

³ Wood, Medina, Feudtner, Luan, Localio, Fieldston, and Rubin. (2012). "Local Macroeconomic Trends and Hospital Admissions for Child Abuse, 2000-2009". *Pediatrics*.