



Safety
Net
Activists

Memorandum in Support February 19, 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; M-S: Brabenec, Cahill, DeStefano, Fitzpatrick, Friend, Lentol, Manktelow, McDonough, Montesano, Salka, Solages, Stec, Walsh)

S.2375 (KRUEGER, ADDABBO, BIAGGI, BRESLIN, GOUNARDES, HOYLMAN, JACKSON, PERSAUD, THOMAS)

NEW YORK STATE HOME STABILITY SUPPORT (HSS)
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RENT ASSISTANCE

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

Urban Justice Center Safety Net Project (SNP) & Safety Net Activists (SNA) 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. Our work is strongly centered on public benefits, anti-eviction, and independent housing for homeless New Yorkers!

UJC SNP & SNA have advocated for the Home Stability Support (HSS) proposal for over two years with the sponsors, the experts representing the Legal Aid Society, Empire Justice Center, and NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The legislation supported by members of the Albany Legislature from both houses and both sides of the aisle. 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. By providing Home Stability Support housing assistance to these households, they could afford market rents. HSS would help thousands of individuals and families remain in community, help thousands of Homeless 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 63,600 homeless people staying in NYC shelters each night and 250,000 homeless people statewide each year. 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.

The Urban Justice Center Safety Net Project attorneys represent Landlord Tenant eviction cases trying to keep Public Assistance & low-income recipients housed. Urban Justice Center Safety Net Activists advocate for residents in the NYC Department of Homeless Services Homeless Shelters for independent permanent housing. This legislation is timely and part of the solution to our New York City housing crisis so we support and urge its adoption!

For further information contact.

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