



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

December 1, 2011

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
State of New York
New York State Capital Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We, the undersigned members of the New York City Council, write to urge you to exempt the Local Discretionary portion of the Title XX Social Services Block Grant (Title XX) from reductions in your FY 2012-2013 Executive Budget.

The past two Executive Budgets have contained proposals to eliminate the local discretionary portion of Title XX funding, repurposing it for mandated social services. While this action would have produced a small cost savings for the State, it put 105 senior centers at risk of closing in New York City. It also would have decreased the ability of all counties to be responsive to their community's social service needs by limiting the use of the funding.

Currently, the City has a robust network of 256 senior centers. We believe that the centers in operation today are stable and trusted resources for the senior community and working family caregivers who rely on them for respite.

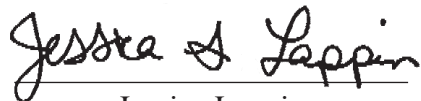
New York City has used Title XX to fund its senior centers for over three decades. This is a core service that keeps vulnerable seniors active and living in the community. As you are well aware, at a time of fiscal austerity, there is no other funding that is available to support the operation of 105 centers should this funding be lost. Title XX provides nearly one out of every four dollars in the Department for the Aging's senior center portfolio.

In addition, over the last two years these budget proposals have caused a great deal of stress and anxiety among the older adult population. Collectively, we have received thousands of calls and letters from tearful seniors who have urged us to save their centers. Moreover, hundreds of seniors have organized against the cut and rallied at borough halls, their centers and City Hall.

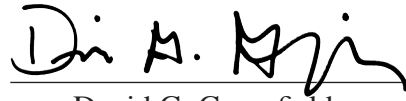
We understand that difficult economic times call for difficult decisions. In fact, in New York City, we have already closed 27 centers. Painful as that was, we did it in a responsible and thoughtful way. The ones that remain are critical to service delivery and need to remain open, which is why title XX funding is so critical.

Therefore, we urge you to retain the Local Discretionary portion of the Title XX Social Services Block Grant Funding administered by the Office of Children and Families. It is critical to the seniors of New York City.

Sincerely,



Jessica Lappin
Chair, Committee on Aging



David G. Greenfield
Chair, Subcommittee on Senior Centers



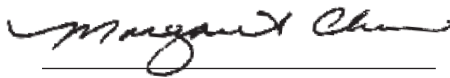
Maria del Carmen Arroyo
17th District, Bronx



Gale Brewer
6th District, Manhattan



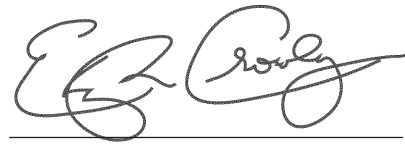
Fernando Cabrera
14th District, Bronx



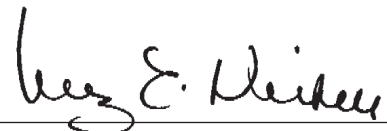
Margaret S. Chin
1st District, Manhattan



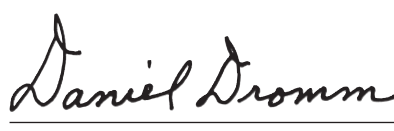
Leroy G. Comrie
27th District, Queens



Elizabeth Crowley
30th District, Queens



Inez E. Dickens
9th District, Manhattan



Daniel Dromm
25th District, Queens



Mathieu Eugene
40th District, Brooklyn



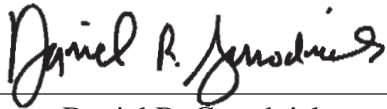
Julissa Ferreras
21st District, Queens



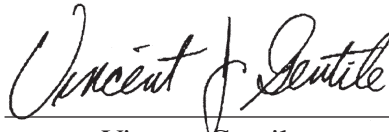
Lewis A. Fidler
46th District, Brooklyn



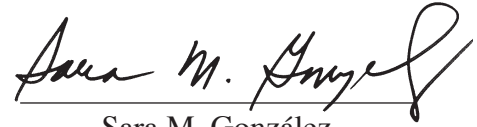
Helen Diane Foster
16th District, Bronx



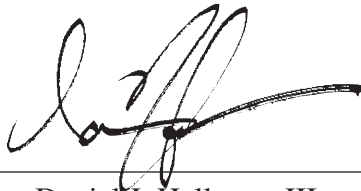
Daniel R. Garodnick
4th District, Manhattan



Vincent Gentile
43rd District, Brooklyn



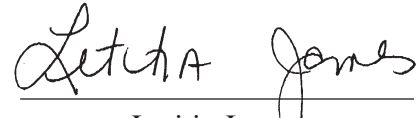
Sara M. González
38th District, Brooklyn



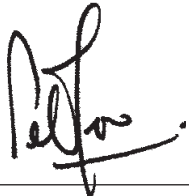
Daniel J. Halloran, III
19th District, Queens



Robert Jackson
7th District, Manhattan



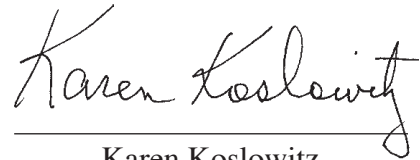
Letitia James
35th District, Brooklyn



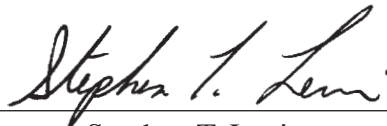
Peter Koo
20th District, Queens



G. Oliver Koppell
11th District, Bronx



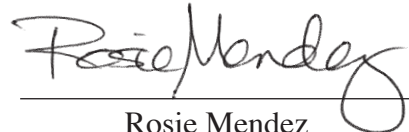
Karen Koslowitz
29th District, Queens



Stephen T. Levin
33rd District, Brooklyn




Melissa Mark-Viverito
8th District, Manhattan




Rosie Mendez
2nd District, Manhattan




Michael Nelson
48th District, Brooklyn



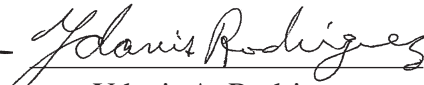
Annabel Palma
18th District, Bronx



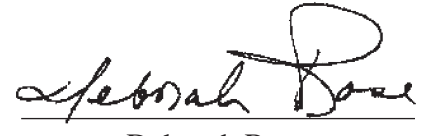
Diana Reyna
34th District, Brooklyn



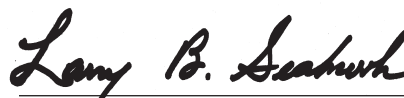
Joel Rivera
15th District, Bronx




Ydanis A. Rodriguez
10th District, Manhattan




Deborah Rose
49th District, Staten Island



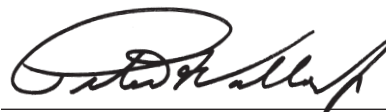
Larry B. Seabrook
12th District, Bronx



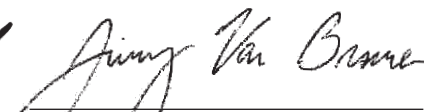
Eric Ulrich
32th District, Queens



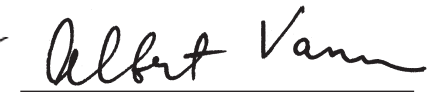
James Vacca
13th District, Bronx



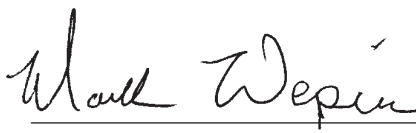
Peter Vallone, Jr.
22nd District, Queens




James Van Bramer
26th District, Queens



Albert Vann
36th District, Brooklyn



Mark S. Weprin
23rd District, Queens



Ruben Wills
28th District, Queens

CC: Christine C. Quinn, Speaker New York City Council