

MODEL AGENCY LETTER

AGENCY LETTERHEAD

DATE

Honorable David Paterson
Governor
The Capitol
Albany, New York 1228

Dear Governor Paterson,

On behalf of the older New Yorkers we serve, we urge you to authorize the funding of previously appropriated legislative initiatives and ensure FY2010-11 funds. Our agency will lose \$_____. Loss of these funds will result in _____.

(If applies) – Among the vetoes was \$_____ for services we have already provided. If we do not receive the funding this will put us in an untenable financial position.

The NY State Office for the Aging receives \$10 million in member item money that fund a gamut of community-based services for vulnerable older New Yorkers in their 70's-90's: meals-on-wheels and congregate meals, senior center health and wellness programs, case workers at senior centers, social adult day services for people with Alzheimer's, NORCs, transportation to senior centers, doctors, food shopping and other important places, case management for homebound elderly with high caseloads and hundreds on waiting lists for the initial assessment, and other critical services. These are the same services that have already been significantly reduced due to state and city budget cuts. This is approximately another 5% cut to SOFA.

The neighborhood based senior services safety net is already stretched with seniors and their family caregivers falling through the holes and unable to access life sustaining services. Older New Yorkers are the fastest growing segment of the state's population. We look forward to working with you to build a community-based network of services that allows older New Yorkers to age in place in their homes and communities with dignity. For further information, please contact _____

Sincerely,

Executive Director

Board President