

September 15, 2009

Hon. Andrew Cuomo  
Office of Attorney General  
The Capitol  
Albany, N.Y. 12224-0341

Hon. Thomas DiNapoli  
Office of State Comptroller  
110 State St.  
Albany, N.Y. 12236

Attorney General Cuomo and State Comptroller DiNapoli,

In light of the actions taken last night by the United States Senate to stop all federal grants and funding to ACORN and its associated organizations, as well as the probe launched by the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office to investigate potential criminal activity at ACORN's New York offices, I am requesting that you identify and freeze all state funding to ACORN, its closely-tied sister organization, the New York Agency For Community Affairs (NYACA), and any other organizations that use state funds to contract with ACORN.

New Yorkers are reading new reports every day about inappropriate and possibly illegal activities at ACORN, not just in our state, but other cities across the country. From housing fraud to voter fraud, the possibility that our tax dollars are being misused for potential criminal activities must be investigated and the flow of tax money must be stopped.

Last night, the United States Senate voted overwhelmingly to stop millions in federal housing funds from going to ACORN. The U.S. Census Bureau also ended its contracts with ACORN last week.

In this year's state budget, \$2 million was added to the Department of State's budget for census-related work involving community outreach. It also included \$6 million for community groups to help implement the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). These funds could go to ACORN and every effort should be made to prevent that from occurring.

ACORN, as well as its partner group, New York Agency for Community Affairs, are slated to receive almost half a million dollars in state funds, including grants sponsored by Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and ten other members of the Assembly Democrat conference, as well as ten Senate Democrats.

Just last week, Senate Democrats argued in support of so-called 'green jobs' legislation, sponsored by Senator Darrel Aubertine, that could funnel millions more to ACORN and NYACA.

Not another dime of state tax money should be approved for ACORN or NYACA until a thorough investigation is conducted into their activities to determine their legality. With the state facing a multi-billion dollar deficit we simply cannot afford to give money to organizations engaged in fraud and abuse of tax dollars.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean P. Skelos", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

DEAN SKELOS  
Senate Republican Leader

CC: Governor David Paterson  
Speaker Sheldon Silver  
Senator John Sampson