



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Ruben Diaz

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March 14, 2011

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For Immediate Release

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Albany, NY - State Senator Rev. Rubén Díaz (SD 32) announced today that the New York State Senate has completely restored Title XX funding for discretionary programs in its one-house budget bill.

“I am pleased and grateful that Senator Skelos and the Senate Republicans, as well as my conference Leader John Sampson and the Senate Democrats, worked to ensure that this very important funding was restored,” stated Senator Díaz.

New York State receives \$103 million in Title XX funding from the federal government which is allocated to the Office of Children and Family Services. \$66 million is used for mandated programs: Adult Protective Services and Domestic Violence Programs. The remainder, \$37 million, is distributed to the counties to fund programs at local discretion. These discretionary programs may include senior services, low income day care, and supportive housing services, as an example.

“Governor Cuomo’s Executive Budget for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year would have eliminated all the funding

for the discretionary programs and kept it for mandated services. While the mandated programs are important, I could not stand by while other programs, such as services to senior citizens faced the possibility of being completely decimated,” continued Senator Díaz.

The New York City Department for the Aging recently released a list of 105 Senior Centers in all five boroughs that were slated to close, resulting in the loss of 2.5 million meals, in order to cope with this expected loss of funding.

“Now that we have passed this first hurdle and restored Title XX funds for discretionary programs, I call on Governor Cuomo to follow our example,” concluded Senator Díaz.