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June 24, 2010

Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor, City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg.

We are deeply saddened and disappointed to hear that you remain on course with an ill-advised plan to shutter 50 senior centers on June 30, 2010.

We and our colleagues in the Senate Democratic conference, on June 14, 2010 approved \$18 million in the State's emergency budget explicitly to provide the City of New York with the funds necessary to save the 50 senior centers targeted for closure.

While we fully realize that, as Mayor you can utilize Title XX funds at your discretion, we were certain that you would follow our leadership in the Senate and use the \$18 million allocation not to fill another City budget need, but as we had designated – for keeping the 50 senior centers open to the thousands of elderly who have come to depend on these facilities as their second home.

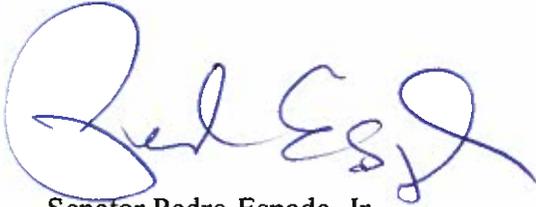
Countless seniors, for example, at the Tolentine-Zeiser Senior Center in the Bronx, have told us they will become prisoners of their homes if their center is closed. They go there daily (as do thousands of seniors at the other facilities) to enjoy a nutritious meal, participate in recreational/social activities, and celebrate holidays and birthdays.

We, in government, understand all too well the impact that budget shortfalls have on the lives of the people who entrust their futures to us, which is why we took action in the Senate to allocate \$18 million to the City for the purpose of saving these 50 senior centers. Mr. Mayor, even in difficult economic times, government must do everything possible to protect our most vulnerable and needy populations. That's why we took this step to assist the City and our seniors in a time of need.



Therefore, Mr. Mayor, we implore you to meet your obligation to the Senate, and to the thousands of New York City's elderly residents, by using this \$18 million appropriation as it was intended to be used – to keep our 50 senior centers open to the people who need them most. With June 30th less than one week away, this matter needs your full attention and response. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Senador Pedro Espada, Jr.
Majority Leader
New York State Senate



Senator Rev. Ruben Diaz, Sr.
Chairman
New York State Senate
Committee on Aging

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