

NEWYORK  
STATE  
SENATE

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



February 6, 2012

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We are writing respectfully and formally to request an amendment to the fiscal year 2012-13 Executive Budget to increase the allocation for Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) to \$1.5 million from \$744,379.

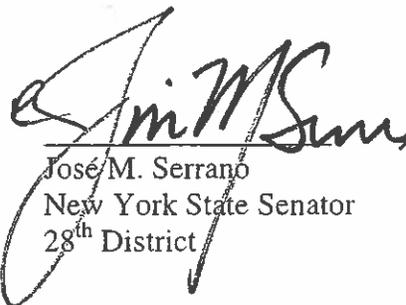
While we appreciate that the allocation for RHY in this year's Executive Budget is flat compared to the amount in the FY 2011-12 New York State Budget, it is approximately half the amount allocated in FY 2010-11 and is down significantly from \$2 million in FY 2008-9. Given that a 2007 study funded by the New York City Council estimated that nearly 4,000 young people in the City alone go homeless each night, the current level of funding is simply not sufficient to serve this extremely vulnerable population.

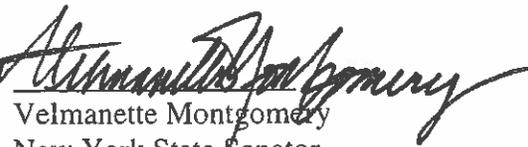
Young people living on the streets, an estimated third of whom are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender, are particularly susceptible to HIV infection, drug use, crime, incarceration and other adverse events. The Empire State Coalition's 2009 *State of the City's Homeless Youth Report* notes that the more time young people spend on the street, the more poor health and mental health outcomes accrue. We must do more to provide this population shelter and a gateway to services so they may integrate into society and become productive New York State residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

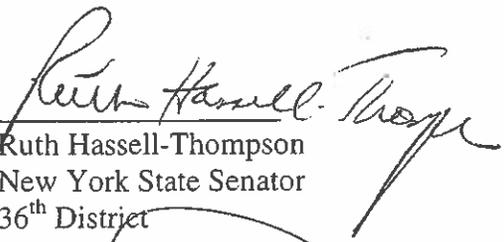
  
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New York State Senator  
29<sup>th</sup> District

  
José M. Serrano  
New York State Senator  
28<sup>th</sup> District

  
Velmanette Montgomery  
New York State Senator  
18<sup>th</sup> District

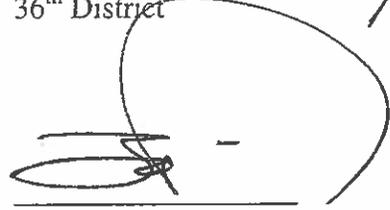
  
Toby Ann Stavisky  
New York State Senator  
16<sup>th</sup> District

  
Tony Avella  
New York State Senator  
11<sup>th</sup> District

  
Ruth Hassell-Thompson  
New York State Senator  
36<sup>th</sup> District

  
Bill Perkins  
New York State Senator  
30<sup>th</sup> District

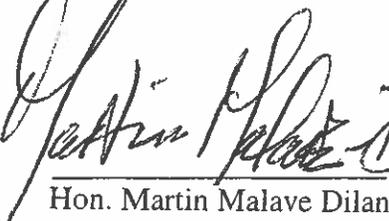
  
Hon. Michael Gianaris

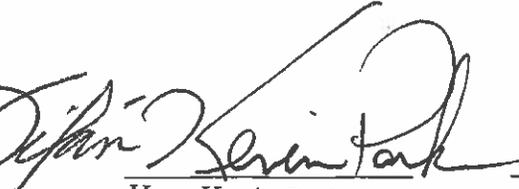
  
Hon. Gustavo Rivera

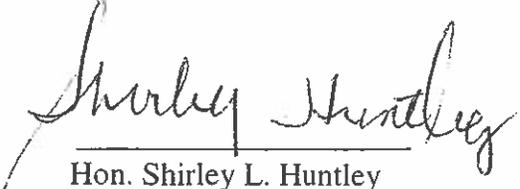
  
Hon. Daniel L. Squadron

  
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