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WOMEN'S ISSUES

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SENATOR
JULIA C. SALAZAR
18TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
STATE OF NEW YORK

ALBANY OFFICE:
ROOM 944
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NY 12247
PHONE: 518-455-2177

DISTRICT OFFICE:
212 EVERGREEN AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11221
PHONE: 718-573-1726

Website:
salazar.nysenate.gov

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Dear Governor Cuomo,

We write to you with appreciation for your leadership during this unprecedented time due to the current pandemic. We, the undersigned elected officials and a coalition of immigrant advocacy groups, feel a responsibility to express our concerns about the lack of economic support for many underserved communities during this COVID-19 pandemic. As public officials, we feel a deep sense of gratitude for New Yorkers, who during this time of extreme economic and social distress, continue to address many of the essential needs of tens of millions of New Yorkers. We call for the State to provide economic compensation to help buttress the impacts of COVID-19 for the families excluded from the Federal government's stimulus package.

Many New York families have been excluded from the \$2.2 trillion stimulus package approved by Congress which gives cash payments to most Americans, plus boosts unemployment benefits by \$600 per week. Those excluded include immigrant families, undocumented families, and those in mixed status families including American citizens. These communities are already economically underserved and left without a safety net during this crisis. While all New Yorkers are facing difficult-times, communities that have been excluded from the federal stimulus package are also facing a tough economic reality. They have been left without economic relief while they continue to see their work hours reduced and mounting unemployment.

We commend your administration for its unwavering support of all New Yorkers. Providing cash assistance to the families excluded from the CARES Act will help provide some relief from the extreme economic burdens they carry during this crisis. We know that *all* New Yorkers must be included in the economic recovery efforts if we wish to come out of this pandemic as a stronger New York. We propose that the State of New York provide a refundable tax credit of up to \$1,000 to all New Yorkers that do not qualify for any Federal economic relief during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes New York tax payers that were excluded from the Federal economic relief because they filed their federal tax returns using an ITIN number through forms 1040NR or 1040NR-EZ. By doing so, the State can offer assistance to those left behind by the Federal government, including many New York Families, U.S. Citizens as well as documented and undocumented immigrants.

We are ready to work with your administration to implement this form of economic relief to ensure all New Yorkers can return from this crisis with resilience. We thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Senator Julia C. Salazar
New York State Senate, District 18