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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
AGING COMMITTEE

COMMITTEES:
BANKS
FINANCE
HOUSING CONSTRUCTION
& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
INSURANCE
INVESTIGATIONS &
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
TRANSPORTATION

March 7, 2011

Honorable Dean G. Skelos
Senate Majority Leader
330 Capitol
Albany, New York 12247

Honorable John L. Sampson
Senate Democratic Conference Leader
907 LOB
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Majority Leader Skelos and Democratic Conference Leader Sampson:

Re: Title XX Funding

We, the members of the Senate Democratic Conference, would like to voice our strong opposition to a proposal in the SFY 2011-2012 Executive Budget that, if enacted, will have devastating consequences. Governor Cuomo's proposal will result in the total elimination of Title XX funding for discretionary programs and every county in New York State will suffer the loss of much-needed funding as a result of this change. Nowhere will this loss of funding be more keenly felt than in the reduction of or in some cases, the total elimination of services for Senior Citizens.

Currently, \$103 million in Title XX funds is allocated through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. There are "mandated" services under Title XX which are required to be funded - Adult Protective Services and Domestic Violence programs. There are also "discretionary" services, which are up to the state whether or not to fund. Senior Centers and day care, for example, are discretionary services, not mandatory. Of the \$103 million, \$66 million is slated for Adult Protective Services /Domestic Violence Services and \$37 million is to be distributed to counties to fund programs at their discretion.

Governor Cuomo's budget eliminates all discretionary funds and moves the money over to the mandated services. That way the state saves other dollars it was using for Adult Protective Services and Domestic Violence programs. While these are worthy programs, it cannot be at the price of eliminating other important programs throughout New York State – especially programs for Senior Citizens.

We now know that the New York City Department for the Aging is facing the elimination of \$25 million in Title XX funding as a result of Governor Cuomo's proposal. This will result in the closure of 105 Senior Centers throughout New York City. Approximately 10,000 seniors will lose their senior center resulting in the elimination of 2.5 million meals on annual basis- affordable, nutritious meals that are shared in the company of friends.

Other counties will also face a devastating reduction in services to senior citizens:

- In Erie County, a \$171,427 cut for Senior Services Housing and Supportive Services (case management for seniors 60 years of age and older who are eligible for Title XX services), and a \$66,650 loss for Home Delivered Meals.

- A loss of \$400,000 for the provision of information and assistance in the Nassau County Department of Senior Citizen Affairs.
- Steuben County will lose \$12,500 in Title XX funding, which will result in the elimination of the Lives of Older Women Program, which has grown by leaps and bounds in Steuben and Chemung Counties since the program has been able to hire a part- time coordinator.

Once again, we are strongly opposed to the Governor's proposal to eliminate Title XX Discretionary Funding, and request that you work collaboratively to ensure that this proposal is not included in the final enacted SFY 2011-2012 budget. A funding cut of this magnitude will have devastating consequences in the lives of millions of Senior Citizens in New York State.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Rubén Díaz, Ranking Member
New York State Senate Committee on Aging

cc: Senate Democratic Conference

Encl.

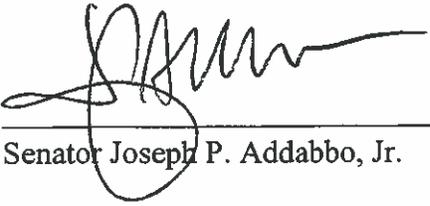
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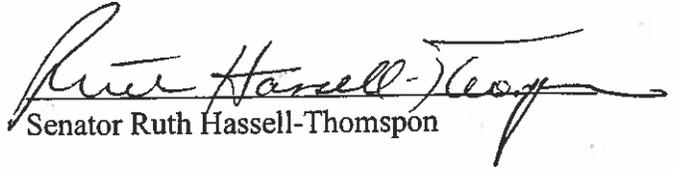
Senator Eric Adams



Senator Michael Gianaris



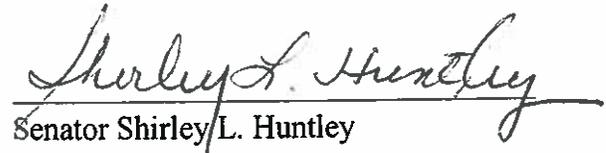
Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.



Senator Ruth Hassell-Thomson



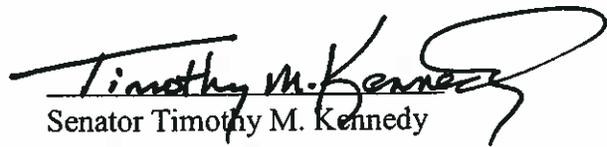
Senator Tony Avella



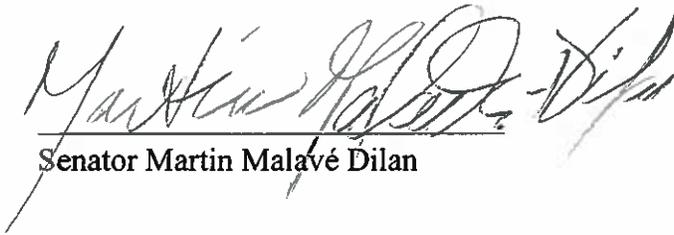
Senator Shirley L. Huntley



Senator Neil Breslin



Senator Timothy M. Kennedy



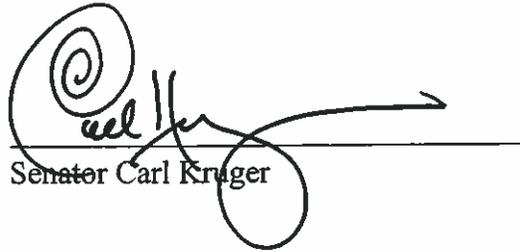
Senator Martin Malavé Dilan



Senator Liz Krueger



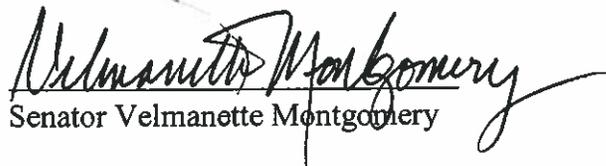
Senator Thomas K. Duane



Senator Carl Kruger



Senator Adriano Espaillat



Senator Velmanette Montgomery



Senator Suzi Oppenheimer



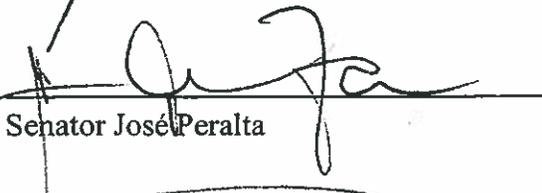
Senator Daniel L. Squadron



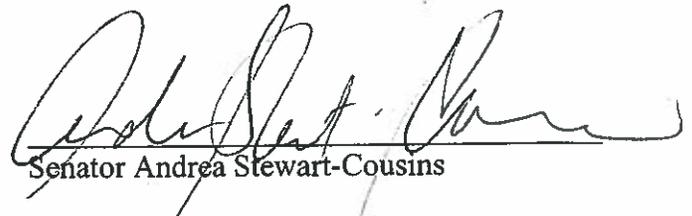
Senator Kevin Parker



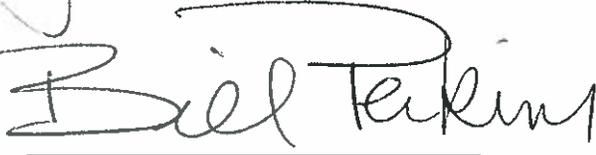
Senator Toby Ann Stavisky



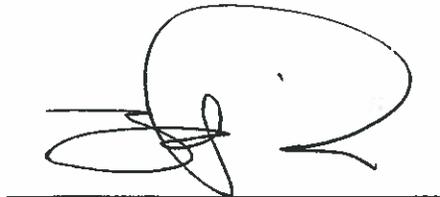
Senator José Peralta



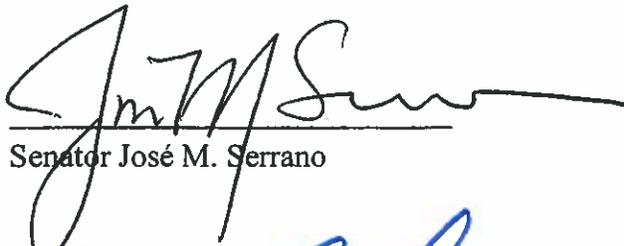
Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins



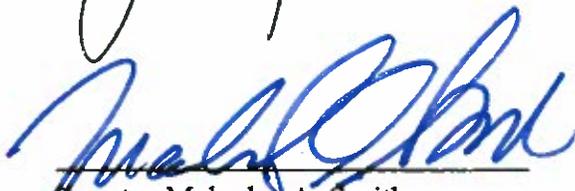
Senator Bill Perkins



Senator Gustavo Rivera



Senator José M. Serrano



Senator Malcolm A. Smith