



THE SENATE
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ALBANY

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CHILDREN & FAMILIES
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CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME & CORRECTION
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February 23, 2017

Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Senate Democratic Conference Leader
907 Legislative Office Building
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Honorable John J. Flanagan
Senate Majority Leader
909 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Assembly Speaker
932 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

Honorable Jeffrey D. Klein
Independent Democratic Conference Leader
913 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Legislative Leaders:

We write on behalf of **YouthBuild**, a comprehensive program that focuses on education, job training, leadership development, community service and the cultivation of life skills for young adults in New York State since 1978. **YouthBuild** engages low-income, out-of-school youth in a program that provides education, job skills training, certifications and leadership competencies. Additionally, **YouthBuild** students provide hundreds of hours of service to their communities while they produce and preserve affordable housing for low-income families.

We respectfully request that \$10.1 million in state monies be appropriated for this important organization in the 2017-18 budget.

YouthBuild provides opportunities for follow-up, placement services and stipends to out-of-school, out-of-work youth aged 16-24, as well as ongoing placement services and support for thousands of **YouthBuild** alumni. NYS monies, if awarded, will allow for the continuation of the **eighteen currently operating YouthBuild programs statewide and provide them an opportunity to expand their services to additional youth.**

The creation of affordable housing is an additional community benefit of this organization. Since 1994, 30,000 units of affordable housing have been produced or upgraded by 140,000 **YouthBuild** students across the US, and 5,000 of those students have been from New York. Should NYS **YouthBuild** programs not be able to survive, the affordable housing market in several communities, as well as potential homeowners, will be hurt where closures occur.

Many New York communities would lose one of its most valuable and successful youth diversion programs. **YouthBuild** dedicates itself to our communities by moving young people toward self-sufficiency, and ensuring that participants develop skills for work and beyond.

New York's investment in YouthBuild will offer young adults an opportunity to better their futures by preparing them for higher education or a career, teaching them how to become better citizens, and inspiring their peers, families and others in their communities as positive role models.

During the past two years, the City of New York has added \$4.2 million of crucial supplementary funds for sites in NYC, allowing programs in four boroughs to be funded and providing funds to expand to the fifth borough, Staten Island. These funds do not nearly provide enough monies to cover the real demands and needs. It is time for New York State - the Governor and the State Legislature - to take the next logical step for **YouthBuild**, to help "disconnected" youth become "Opportunity" youth and obtain better lives.

Sincerely,



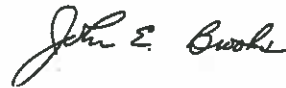
Senator Velmanette Montgomery
25th Senate District



Senator Jamaal Bailey
36th Senate District



Senator Neil Breslin
44th Senate District



Senator John Brooks
8th Senate District



Senator Leroy Comrie
14th Senate District



Senator Brad Hoylman
27th Senate District



Senator Timothy Kennedy
63rd Senate District



Senator Kevin Parker
21st Senate District

Bill Perkins

Senator Bill Perkins
30th Senate District

Roxanne Persaud

Senator Roxanne Persaud
19th Senate District

J. Sanders Jr.

Senator James Sanders Jr.
10th Senate District

Jose Serrano

Senator Jose Serrano
29th Senate District

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cc: Senator Michael N. Gianaris
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Senator Liz Krueger
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