

# Campaign 4 NY/NY Housing

For Immediate Release

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## **Campaign for NY/NY Housing Statement on Governor Cuomo's State of the State**

NEW YORK – The Campaign for NY/NY Housing today issued the following statement in response to Governor Cuomo using his first of six State of the State speeches to pass the buck on his broken promise to build 20,000 units of supportive housing for the homeless:

“What a difference a year makes. Last January, Governor Cuomo stood before the people of New York and promised to build 20,000 units of supportive housing for the homeless over 15 years. Then he signed a budget that would fund the first 6,000 units of this commitment, but only if he and the two legislative leaders signed a completely unnecessary memorandum of understanding. When that didn't happen, he played politics with a legislative pay raise at the end of the year, dangling homelessness funds as part of his failed bid for special session. Now, with 88,000 homeless New Yorkers paying the price for his failed leadership, he has the audacity to point the finger at everyone but himself. If Governor Cuomo really wanted this done, it would be done. He doesn't get to point to a press release he issued three months ago and wash his hands of this. He made a promise, now he needs to keep it. Homeless New Yorkers can't afford another year of Andrew Cuomo's political miscalculations and empty rhetoric. They just need him to keep his word.”

During his State of the State speech in January 2016, Governor Cuomo pledged to fund 20,000 new units of supportive housing. The State Budget passed in April included capital funds for the first 6,000 of those units, but required the completion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Governor Cuomo and the leaders of the Senate and the Assembly before the funds can be spent.

Last month, as he negotiated with legislative leaders over whether to hold a special session of the State Legislature, Governor Cuomo repeatedly suggested that one of the priorities for the session would be signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) required to release funds to build 6,000 units of supportive housing for the homeless over the next five years. In reality, there has never been any requirement for the legislature to be in session in order to sign the MOU. Ultimately he failed to secure an agreement for a special session, forcing more than 88,000 homeless New Yorkers to pay the price for his political miscalculation.

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