Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write to you as duly elected members of the New York City Council, with regard to the alarming magnitude of homelessness throughout New York City and across our state, and the attendant human and financial costs this growing crisis has on our communities.

New York City has looked to solve this problem by increasing the number of shelters throughout our communities. While shelters are an important piece of addressing this crisis, they are meant to be a temporary measure, not a long-term solution. The only real way to address this crisis is through a statewide rental supplement. We call on you to initiate a new program to stem the tide of displacement that is driving large numbers of families and individuals into homelessness every day.

Specifically, we call on you to establish the Home Stability Support (HSS) program. HSS will be a new statewide, State and Federal-funded rent supplement program to bridge the difference between public assistance shelter allowances and 85 percent of Federal Fair Market Rents and also address the high costs of heating when borne by families. HSS is designed to assist:

- Each family or individual facing a loss of housing due to formal or informal eviction, domestic violence, or hazardous conditions;
- Those who are already homeless and living doubled-up, in shelters, or living on the street.

This is the most cost-effective solution for preventing homelessness and it requires Executive action to replace the current patchwork of local programs that reach only a small fraction of those in need.

The problem of homelessness has reached a critical juncture, and the costs to our communities are unsustainable. It is time to boldly and adequately attack the preventable causes of record homelessness. Please see detailed recommendations at HomeStabilitySupport.com.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Stephen T. Levin
Chair, Committee on General Welfare

Barry S. Grodenchik
Member, Committee on General Welfare
Council Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel

Council Member Adrienne Adams

Council Member Ben Kallos (Co-Chair, Progressive Caucus)

Council Member Keith Powers (Vice Co-Chair, Progressive Caucus)

Council Member Carlos Menchaca (Vice Co-Chair, Progressive Caucus)

Council Member Diana Ayala

Council Member Inez Barron

Council Member Fernando Cabrera

Council Member Margaret Chin

Council Member Andrew Cohen

Council Member Daniel Dromm

Council Member Karen Koslowitz

Council Member Costa Constantinides

Council Member Robert Cornegy

Council Member Rafael Espinal

Council Member Mathieu Eugene

Council Member Vanessa Gibson

Council Member Peter Koo

Council Member Brad Lander

Council Member Mark Levine
Council Member I. Daneek Miller

Council Member Francisco Moya

Council Member Bill Perkins

Council Member Antonio Reynoso

Council Member Donovan J. Richards

Council Member Carlina Rivera

Council Member Helen Rosenthal

Council Member Rafael Salamanca

Council Member Paul Vallone

Council Member Eric Ulrich

Council Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo

Council Member Robert Holden

Council Member Ritchie Torres

Council Member Mark Treyger

Council Member James Van Bramer

Council Member Jumaane Williams

Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez

Council Member Andy King

Council Member Justin Brannan
Council Member Alan Maisel

Council Member Debi Rose