April 11, 2019

Dear Governor Cuomo, State Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie:

"Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young-- a place near your altar, LORD Almighty, my King and my God."
Psalm 84:3 (NIV)

As leaders of faith communities from across the state, we are called to stand with the most vulnerable among us –New Yorkers who can barely afford to live here anymore. From New York City to Rochester and beyond, millions across our state and in our congregations are on the front lines of a massive housing crisis.

Here is the difficult, painful choice many tenants face: either pay huge portions of their income for increasingly expensive rental housing, or join the growing ranks of the homeless population. This housing crisis is not just an economic crisis or policy crisis- it's a moral crisis. That's why we are writing to you today.

We urge you to pass the enclosed legislative package that would renew, strengthen, and expand tenants' rights for all New Yorkers who rent their homes. You should move quickly to enact these bills that will protect and empower all tenants across the state: renters in rent-regulated housing, renters in unregulated housing, and those who live in mobile home communities. The plight of tenants who can barely hang on to their homes deserves your full focus, attention, and leadership.

Do not wait until the end of the legislative session to take action. Get to work now to fix our state's rent laws that, for too long, have favored and enriched landlords over the millions of everyday New Yorkers who are renters.

Now is the time to strengthen the rights of tenants in urban centers, rural areas, and the suburbs throughout New York State.
Now is the time to pass legislation that reflects our state’s highest values of justice and fairness - values that our faith communities deeply affirm.

It is morally wrong and unacceptable that New York has the second-highest rate of homelessness in the country, with over 92,000 homeless New Yorkers. That number is on the rise, with 100 New Yorkers being evicted every day. Research shows that the primary cause of homelessness, particularly among families, is lack of affordable rental housing.

As people of faith from across the state, we demand that you enact universal rent control and ensure that all tenants are protected and have access to decent, safe, and affordable housing. This package of bills is the best way to strengthen rent-regulated housing and provide real protections to every New Yorker who rents their home.

With your full support for universal rent control, millions of New Yorkers can live in a more just and moral New York.

Our faith demands: “Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. (Isaiah 54:2)”

Sincerely,

Reverend Andrea Abbott  
Minister  
First Universalist Society  
Central Square NY

Olav Athayde  
Outreach Ambassador  
Our Lady of Peace  
New York NY

Sister Joan Agro, OP  
Congregational Secretary  
Sisters of St. Dominic  
Blauvelt NY

Laura Bachmann  
Associate Pastor  
South Presbyterian Church  
Rochester NY

Sister Carol De Angelo  
Director, Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation  
Sisters of Charity of New York  
Bronx NY

Mr. Keith Barber  
Elder  
First Presbyterian Church  
Albany NY

Rev. Sara Baron  
Pastor  
First United Methodist Church of Schenectady  
Schenectady, NY

Rev. Dr. Alan Bentz-Letts  
New York NY

Retired Kalman Angus-Clark  
Member  
Pax Romana  
New York NY

Pastor Eduardo Arias  
Sion Iglesia Luterana  
New York NY
The Reverend Kathryn Beilke  
Pastor  
First Presbyterian Church  
Hudson NY

Rev Dr Len and Judy Bjorkman  
Owego NY

Reverend Lynn Carman Bodden  
Interim Minister  
The First Church in Albany  
Albany NY

Dr. Edison Bond  
Administrator  
The Citadel Cathedral  
Brooklyn NY

Reverend Yolanda D. Brown  
Minister of Economic Development  
Imani’s Quest Ministries  
New York NY

Reverend Micah Bucey  
Minister  
Judson Memorial Church  
New York NY

Rev. Vincenzo Cardilicchia  
CUFFH Partner  
All Saints Roman Catholic Church  
Brooklyn NY

Rev. Dr. Daniel Carlson  
Minister  
First Reformed Church  
Schenectady NY

Rev. Won Tae Cho  
Korean American Sanctuary Church Network  
Maspeth NY

Reverend Joe Cleveland  
Minister  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs  
Saratoga Springs NY

Sister Faith Colligan  
Social Justice Coordinator-New York State  
Daughters of Charity-Province of St. Louise  
Albany NY

Rev. Joya Colon-Berezin  
Minister of Christian Education  
The Scarsdale Congregational Church  
Scarsdale NY

Reverend Peter Cook  
Executive director,  
New York State Council of Churches

Rev. Bruce Cornwell  
Pastor  
Community Reformed Church of Colonie  
Albany NY

Fr. Daniel Corrou SJ  
Pastor  
St Francis Xavier Catholic Church  
New York NY

Rev. Dr. Charles Curtis  
Chair, NY Interfaith Commission for Housing Equality & President, Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater NY  
New York NY

Kimberly P Chastain  
Pastor  
United Presbyterian Church  
Binghamton NY

Rev. Sandy Damhof  
Pastor  
Journey United Church of Christ  
Albany NY

Rev. Dr. Herbert Daughtry  
National Presiding Minister  
The House of the Lord Churches  
Brooklyn NY

Rabbi Jo David  
New York NY
Rabbi Michael Feinberg
Executive Director
Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition
New York NY

Sister Mary Kay Finneran
Coordinator for retired religious
Sisters of Charity Global Poverty Task force
Bronx NY

Elaine Frazier
Chairman
Capital Area Urban League
Albany NY

Cedric Fulton
Community Organizer
Katal Center for Health, Equity and Justice
Albany, NY

Reverend Ron Garner
Pastor
Memorial Congregational Church UCC
Wantagh NY

Rabbi Jonah Geffen
Congregation Shaare Zedek

Rev. Joel Gibson
Executive Director
Micah Institute
New York NY

The Rev. Dr. Richard Gilbert
Retired Unitarian Universalist Minister
Rochester NY

Alfred Gill
Executive Director
Neighborhood Housing Services of Staten Island
Staten Island NY

Sister Doreen Glynn
Albany Province Peace and Justice coordinator
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
Latham NY

Rabbi Lisa Goldstein
New York NY

Marc L. Greenberg
Executive Director
Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing

Rabbi Marc Gruber
Central Synagogue-Beth Emeth
Rockville Centre NY

Regina Baird Haag
Executive Director
Elsie K. Powell House, Inc.
Old Chatham NY

Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn Hadley-Hall
Associate Pastor
Christ Temple United Baptist Church
Brooklyn NY

Rabbi Eytan Hammerman
Jewish Community Center of Harrison
Harrison NY

Rev. Thomas E. Hardy
Pastor
Friedens (Peace) United Church of Christ
North Tonawanda NY

Reverend Geraldine Harris
Pastor
Greater File Chapel Baptist Church
New York NY

Rev. Peter Goodwin Heltzel
Associate Professor of Theology
New York Theological Seminary
New York NY

Rabbi Lauren Grabelle Herrmann
SAJ-Judaism that Stands for All
New York, NY

Rev. Gilberto Hidalgo Jr.
Ordained Minister
Assemblies of God
Kiamesha Lake NY
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Role</th>
<th>Church/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edward Mason</td>
<td>CUFFH Member</td>
<td>Our Lady of Presentation Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Brooklyn NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Magalene McClarrin</td>
<td>Church Business Administrator</td>
<td>Memorial Presbyterian Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Roosevelt NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khabir John McGeehan</td>
<td>Imam</td>
<td>Masjid al-Farah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Michael McGlynn</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Social justice committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Watervliet NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol McLoughlin</td>
<td>Social Justice Committee Chairperson</td>
<td>Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Queens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Kymberly McNair</td>
<td>Associate Minister</td>
<td>Antioch Baptist Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bedford Hills NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Emily McNeill</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Latham NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Gregory Mendoza</td>
<td>Youth Minister</td>
<td>Friendship Baptist Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New York NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverend Hugo Monroy</td>
<td>Pastor</td>
<td>Second Christian Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bronx NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverend Rashad Raymond Moore</td>
<td>Assistant Minister</td>
<td>Abyssinian Baptist Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Kevin Nelson</td>
<td>Home Missioner</td>
<td>First United Methodist Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Schenectady NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbi Lev Meirowitz Nelson</td>
<td></td>
<td>T'ruah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Brooklyn NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister Mary Ellen O'Boyle</td>
<td>Coordinator of Anti-Trafficking Efforts</td>
<td>Srs. of Charity of NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New York NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Chibueze Okorie</td>
<td>Minister</td>
<td>The Church of Gethsemane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Brooklyn NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Paparone</td>
<td>Lead Organizer</td>
<td>Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Albany NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Dr. Nigel Pearce</td>
<td>Senior Pastor</td>
<td>Grace Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Harlem NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Benjamin Perry</td>
<td>Deputy Director of Communications &amp; Marketing</td>
<td>Union Theological Seminary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New York NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Rev. Peter W. Peters, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Co-Chair</td>
<td>REACH Advocacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rochester NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Stephen H Phelps</td>
<td>Member, Presbytery of New York City</td>
<td>Abyssinian Baptist Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New York NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Narcisse Philips</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bethany United Methodist Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Brooklyn NY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Margot Phillips
Board Member
New York State Council of Churches
Albany NY

Rev David Preisinger
Pastor
Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit
Albany NY

Reverend Erik Rasmussen
Chairperson
Long Island Council of Churches
Nassau and Suffolk Counties NY

Rev Patricia Raup
Retired UCC pastor
Journey UCC
Albany NY

Reverend Konrad Raup
Pastor
United Church of Christ
Albany NY

The Rev. Elsie Rhodes
Pastor
First Presbyterian Church
Cooperstown NY

Reverend Dr. Raymond Rivera
President, Senior Pastor
Latino Pastoral Action Center, & Sanctuary
Church
Bronx NY

Sister Marlene Ann Roeger
Pastoral Leader
Catholic Diocese
Rochester NY

Rabbi Peter Rubinstein
Rabbi Emeritus
Central Synagogue
New York NY

Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper
Senior Minister
Judson Memorial Church
New York NY

Campus Minister/Professor
Archdiocese of NY
Bronx NY

Mary Smith
Communications Director
Church Women United in New York State
Rochester NY

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Associate Pastor
Third Presbyterian Church
Rochester NY

Rev. Merle Showers
Retired
University United Methodist church
Buffalo NY

Reverend William Spilly
Pastor
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Hamlin
Hamlin NY

Ms. Catherine Stapleton
New York NY

Dr. Diane Steinman
Director
NYS Interfaith Network for Immigration Reform
Forest Hills NY

Rev. Martha Koenig Stone
Pastor
Henrietta United Church of Christ
Rochester NY

Rabbi Joshua Strom
Congregation B’nai Yisrael
Chappaqua NY

Hon. Rev. Dr. Michael Strong
Chief Administrator
Strong Families Deliverance Ministries Inc.
Bronx NY

The Rev. Eva Suarez
St. James Church
New York, NY
Rev. Kevin J. Sweeney  
CUFFH Member  
St. Michael’s Roman Catholic Church  
Brooklyn NY

Pastor Jason Taber  
St. John the Evangelist  
New York NY

Rabbi Frank Tamburello  
Society of Jewish Science, Westchester  
Community for Humanistic Judaism  
New York and White Plains NY

Reverend Doctor Liz Theoharis  
Director  
Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice  
New York NY

The Very Rev. John P. Thompson  
Rector  
Church of St. John in the Wilderness (Episcopal)  
Copake Falls NY

Ann Toback  
The Workmen’s Circle  
New York NY

Rev. Faith M. Togba  
Senior Pastor of Bethel Worship Center  
Staten Island NY

Warren Truland  
NYSCoC  
Troy NY

Jessilou Vaccarelli  
Superintendent  
Spencerport UCC  
Spencerport NY

Reverend Shannan Vance-Ocampo  
Co-Moderator  
Presbyterian Peace Fellowship  
Albany NY

Rev. Robert Vitaglione  
CUFFH Partner  
Sacred Heart Church (Mary of Nazareth Parish)  
Brooklyn NY

Reverend Julius Walls, Jr.  
Pastor  
Greater Hood A.M.E. Zion Church  
New York NY

Janet Wagner  
St. Stephens-Bethlehem United Church of Christ  
Buffalo NY

Rev. Kris Watson  
Associate Pastor  
Safe Haven UCC  
Ridgewood NY

Rabbi Pamela Wax  
Spiritual Care Coordinator  
Westchester Jewish Community Services  
White Plains NY

Rev. William Webb  
Priest  
Episcopal Diocese WNY  
Buffalo NY

Abi Weber  
Rabbinical Student  
New York NY

Rabbi Simkha Weintraub, LCSW  
New York NY

The Rev. Dr. Robert A. White  
Minister Emeritus  
First Reformed Church  
Schenectady NY

Rev. Dr. Damaris D. Whittaker  
Senior Minister  
Fort Washington Collegiate Church  
New York NY

Sr. Susan Wilcox, CSJ  
Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation Coordinator  
Sisters of St. Joseph  
Brentwood, NY
Rev. Dr. William Wilkinson
Pastor
First Presbyterian Church, Medina, New York
Medina NY

Reverend Lawrence Witmer
Retired
Greater Rochester Community of Churches
Rochester NY

Reverend Dustin Wright
Pastor
Messiah Lutheran Church
Schenectady NY

Ms. Linda Yannone
Lay leader, UCC
Ithaca NY