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GROUPS REPRESENTING YOUTH AND HUMAN SERVICES APPLAUD WITHDRAWAL OF REGRESSIVE TAXES

Next Up for Stimulus Funding must be Programs Serving NY's Most Vulnerable and Addressing Increased Needs

New York City— Groups representing youth and human services applauded the Governor and legislative leaders in Albany for taking the Governor's proposed regressive tax and fee hikes from off the table by using federal stimulus dollars - but urged state leaders to go farther and ensure that stimulus dollars protect cost-effective programs for the neediest New Yorkers.

"Governor Paterson and leaders in Albany deserve praise for eliminating regressive taxes that place the burden on low-income working parents and their children, frail older adults living on fixed incomes, and others feeling the brunt of this recession. The elimination of regressive taxes is a positive first step. Now these leaders need to step up and use federal stimulus dollars to prevent the most painful cuts to essential human services that keep struggling families and communities strong. Eliminating critical programs— like ones that keep youth off the streets and put them on track for college and that keep people in their homes— isn't just bad for New York's future. It's fiscally irresponsible. These programs are preventive and save the State money in the long term," said **Nancy Wackstein, United Neighborhood Houses.**

"With a combination of federal stimulus and Fair Share Tax Reform— asking the most well-of New Yorkers to pitch in— the state can close a multi billion dollar budget gap and still strengthen our safety net during this critical time. The next step must be protecting services for our school children, the elderly, the ill and the disabled. For the health and welfare of New York, stimulus dollars should go to restoring cuts from homeless prevention, youth service and afterschool programs, home visiting, as well as services to prevent incarceration and detention of youth," added **Jennifer March-Joly, Executive Director of Citizens' Committee for Children of New York.**

The Governor's proposed budget includes:

- \$12.5 million reduction in eviction prevention and homelessness intervention statewide and \$13 million cut to homeless shelters in NY
- Over \$150 million in cuts to child and family services statewide, including:
 - o \$50 million cut to youth services and advantage afterschool programs;
 - o \$40 million cut to home visiting programs - including COPS (County Optional Preventive Services) funded Nurse Family Partnership programs and Healthy Families NY programs;
 - o \$50 million cut to child abuse and neglect prevention and post-adoption services.

The One New York: Fighting for Fairness Coalition includes over 200 organizations and counting who advocate for and serve New Yorkers needing services such as: AIDS services, child care, child welfare, education, health care, homeless housing, housing, immigrant services, income support, legal services, people with disabilities, senior services, youth services and other vital areas services.